

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 JANUARY 1983

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks

The delegations at Qiryat Shemona discussed new ideas on how to reach an agenda and held their talks in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, the Lebanese delegation spokesman announced in a communique broadcast by Beirut radio. A similar statement by the Israeli Foreign Ministry was broadcast over Jerusalem radio. Both sides said the new ideas would be reported to their respective governments and the negotiations will continue on 10 January in Khaldah.

Noting that the new ideas were contained in a compromise proposal by Morris Draper, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, IDF radio said Israel is ready in principle to accept the proposal and will accept it if the Lebanese Government does likewise. Citing an Israeli political source, the radio said the U.S. suggestion is close in spirit to the Israeli stand and promises discussion of normalization through a formula that meets both Israel's demands about content and Lebanon's demands about form. The new proposal is more likely to be opposed by Lebanon than by Israel, the radio contended. Nevertheless, official Lebanese sources cited by Beirut radio described Draper's new ideas as "reasonable." The U.S. proposals, which are tantamount to a new draft plan for the agenda, were evaluated at a meeting in Beirut chaired by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, the radio noted. Citing sources in the Lebanese capital, the Amman paper AR-RA'Y reported that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has threatened to resign in protest at the compromises made by the Lebanese delegation at Qiryat Shemona.

The Israeli delegation leader at Qiryat Shemona complained that the Lebanese had revoked proposals they had made at Khaldah and which had already been accepted by the Israeli Government, Jerusalem radio reported. According to IDF radio, Draper presented his new proposal at an informal meeting just when it seemed that the negotiations had reached a dead end.

Lebanon: Military, Security Situation

Further Clashes in Tripoli -- The situation in Tripoli "exploded violently" during the afternoon of 6 January and shelling continued for 5 hours, according to Beirut radio reports. A subsequent Voice of Lebanon radio report described the city as living through "an inferno of battles and shells, which are falling at an unprecedented rate." The rival factions were mounting reciprocal raids on each other's positions. The Syrian forces, which were fighting alongside their 'Alawite allies, reinforced their positions in the city with additional units of the defense squads, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The clashes subsided on 7 January although sporadic gunfire continued, according to Beirut radio.

The Higher Coordination Committee meanwhile continued its efforts to secure a cease-fire but the anti-Syrian factions strongly opposed the committee's proposal to divide Tripoli into two security zones, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. These groups, many of which have withdrawn from the committee, reject Syrian involvement in maintaining security in the city and want the Syrians to leave Tripoli, the report indicated.

Meanwhile, Syrian Defense General Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in Tripoli to participate in the committee's meetings, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The radio also said PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit the city to assist attempts to stop the fighting.

IDF Al-Biqa' Reinforcement -- The Israelis have strengthened their positions in the Al-Biqa' valley with more tanks, artillery and supply trucks, AFP reported citing Beirut's AN-NAHAR.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

The Tel Aviv daily DAVAR expressed concern about Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's "extremism," contending that Abu Ghazalah may seek to turn Egypt into a "prime military Pan-Arab factor" threatening peace. DAVAR's comment follows Abu Ghazalah's statement, reported by the London daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on 31 December, declaring that Egypt must view the peace treaty with Israel "cautiously," beware of Israel's steady military growth, prepare to be strong and enhance its own military capability "so as to neutralize this force and create a balance in the area."

Arab Diplomacy

Relations With USSR -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat announced in Kuwait that he will visit Moscow on 11 January "to acquaint myself with the new Soviet leadership, remembering that any window which opens before the Palestinians will serve their cause," Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. Meanwhile, the Amman weekly AKHBAR AL-USBU' disclosed that CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Andropov will "soon" tour some Arab countries, starting with Jordan.

Relations With UK -- Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta announced that the seven-member Arab committee established by the Fes summit will visit London in February with its full complement, including the PLO representative, MAP reported. In his statement, which was published by the Saudi paper AR-RIYAD, Boucetta explained that the decision was reached following intensive talks between Britain and Morocco and as a result of Arab pressure on Britain.

Iraq

Saddam Husayn Speech -- Although the war with Iran has hitherto been waged under conditions of economic prosperity, Iraq now needs to adjust its economic conditions in light of the circumstances caused by the war, President Saddam Husayn declared in an army anniversary day speech carried by INA. Iraqis must henceforth curb unnecessary expenditures, dispense with luxuries, and improve production, he added. Earlier in his remarks, the president claimed that Iran's "aggression" against Iraq was part of a premeditated "plot" aimed at dividing the Arab nation into "serfdoms subject to the will of Persia, the sons of Zion, and other international forces."

Relations With France -- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was received in Paris by French President Francois Mitterrand, INA reported. Citing statements by 'Aziz and a French official, AFP reported that Iraq is considering appealing to France to help modernize its air force while France is interested in increasing oil purchases from Iraq.

Saudi Arabia

A Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ministry spokesman denied reports that Saudi Arabia has recently discussed with Aramco officials the possibility of reducing oil prices, Riyadh television reported. The Kingdom is still committed to the prices set by OPEC, he stressed.

Afghanistan

Mohammad Ibrahim, Afghan mujahidin commander was killed in a 31 December clash with Soviet and DRA Government troops, AFP reported, citing resistance sources in Islamabad.

DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT TO VISIT USSR 11 JAN; COMMENTS ON AID

GF061710 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that he will visit the Soviet Union on 11 January and that he will meet with Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov in Moscow.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has revealed that he had received an invitation from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to visit Libya and that he is studying the matter.

'Arafat hailed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and said that Algeria paid \$20 million to the Soviet Union for weapons requested by the Palestinian Revolution. He said that President Chadli Bendjedid also expressed readiness to supply the Resistance with any kind of weapon that it wants to have or to train on. 'Arafat said that the Palestinian Revolution has decided to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the Revolution in Aden on 25 January.

Regarding the organization's [PLO] contacts with Egypt, 'Arafat said that 30,000 Egyptian officers and soldiers had volunteered to fight alongside the Resistance and the national Lebanese forces in Beirut. That is why the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese forces decided to contact Egypt and strengthen relations with its people and national forces to extricate it from the Camp David accords.

'ARAFAT ON UK STAND, EGYPT'S RETURN TO ARAB FOLD

GF061444 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 Jan 83 pp 1, 23

[Report on statement by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, at Kuwait airport on his arrival 5 January]

[Excerpts] In reply to a question on his evaluation of Arab-British relations at present, Yasir 'Arafat said: There is Arab coordination at the summit level on the Arab stand toward Britain. He added: While bearing the historical, moral, and political responsibility for its crime against the Palestinian people, who were not under British occupation at the time when Palestine was not a British colony but under the British mandate according to a resolution by the League of Nations, Britain does not have the right to absolve itself of its responsibility and to adopt such a strange and suspicious stand against the Palestinian people.

Asked what he expects the Arab stand toward Britain to be, 'Arafat said: We will discuss this in our meeting which will be held around 21 January when the Jerusalem Committee meets and when the seven-member committee meets at the foreign ministers level. The issue will be discussed in detail.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman said his agenda does not include a visit to Cairo. This does not mean, he said, that I do not know the value of Egypt and the Palestinian people. I will not forget that the two delegations who penetrated the siege and came to me were two Egyptian popular delegations. I always said that the Egyptian people are great in everything: their courtesy, revolution, and love.

Yasir 'Arafat affirmed the necessity of trying to return Egypt to the Arab ranks while at the same time moving it far from Camp David. This is the duty of every sincere Arab, he said.

KUWAITDEPUTY PREMIER ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD032000 Kuwait KUNA in English 1248 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, Jan 3 (KUNA) -- "Kuwait is looking to the future in optimism and high hopes," Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said.

In an interview with "KUL AL-ARAB" magazine publishing here tomorrow Kuwait's chief diplomat said "we are also optimistic that the Iraqi-Iranian war will come to an end and that stability will prevail."

Asked to comment on what is now described as a "religious uprising in the region," Shaykh Sabah said the history of every nation recorded the appearance and disappearance of such phenomena. If such uprising are "for God alone" and without concealed or open political objectives "I will be the first to welcome them," Shaykh Sabah said.

Asked to comment on Kuwait's trend towards a constitutional amendment and assess its parliamentary experiment along with its likely effects on Kuwait and other parts of the region, the deputy premier said every state should adopt the policies that suit its own circumstances.

Declining to comment on policy issues of other states, Shaykh Sabah said "in Kuwait, democracy is something" deep rooted. "We believe in freedom of speech, democracy is good for Kuwait and as everyone is likely to make mistakes we should therefore listen to advice from others." "We will continue to strengthen democracy in Kuwait because the repetition of errors will lead to dictatorship," Shaykh Sabah said.

The proposed constitutional amendments will not jeopardize the jurisdictions of the National Assembly and we will in no way be disturbed if the proposals were turned down. The National Assembly is absolutely free to accept or reject the proposed amendment, the deputy premier added.

Asked if Kuwait's democratic atmosphere is likely to create sensitivities for the state as member in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Shaykh Sabah ruled out such expectations because "this is a pure domestic issue." Kuwait had elected to follow this passage and each state is free to decide its own systems.

Asked if certain clauses in the Gulf security pact will contravene with Kuwait's atmosphere of democracy and freedoms, Shaykh Sabah said "the agreement is being revised and we are thinking about re-drafting it." "It will not be an agreement if it is not agreed by all," the deputy premier said, adding "we will also study it again."

Asked if the democratic structure of Kuwait is constituting any political or security burdens or affecting its socio-political standing, Shaykh Sabah said "we are not facing any problems in that respect."

"Most of the non-Kuwaitis here are Palestinians and we should frankly admit they have rendered services to this country," he added.

On the other hand, the majority of residents here are Arabs and their increase in number "will not cause me any worries." He confirmed that the presence of non-Arabs is a cause for anxiety, and said many incidents which occurred here including murder were committed by foreigners. Shaykh Sabah ruled out any possibility of revising the current status of Arab communities in Kuwait. All those who entered the country in a legal manner will continue to enjoy the rights of citizens "same as me and other Kuwaiti nationals," he added. Asked if those rights may lead to Kuwaiti nationality, Shaykh Sabah said the issue is governed by the nationality law, adding "people who stay here for a specific period may be granted that "right."

Asked to comment on future relations between the conflicting regimes of Oman and South Yemen, the architect of Kuwait diplomacy said the ending of differences between the two states will lead to stability in the region.

Both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were assigned by the Gulf Cooperation Council to undertake a reconciliation mission which led to an agreement between the two Arab neighbours. "If the question is that each of the two states is committed to a specific country, I can only say that the security of the Gulf region should be left in the hands of its people as stipulated in the GCC Charter," Shaykh Sabah added.

"We have great hopes that our brothers in Oman are not committed to an extent that would tighten their hands," Shaykh Sabah said.

Asked to comment on the position of both Oman and Aden, the deputy premier pointed out that the "Omanis can reach closer agreements with us than with any other party." "We are seeking more cooperation despite any such commitments," he added.

Shaykh Sabah ruled out any slack in Kuwait's foreign policy. "We have been active in Lebanon despite all sorts of intervention," he said. Due to pre-occupations here, H.H. the amir regretted for Kuwait not participating in the seven-man Arab committee assigned by Fes summit, "but that was not a sign of disagreement with other brothers," he added.

"In Lebanon we had been representing the Arab League but unfortunately a foreign army occupied Lebanon followed by another invader," he said. "Although we have been officially eliminated in Lebanon our ambassador is still there working along with other Arab diplomats to reconcile between its conflicting factions," Shaykh Sabah said. "Foreign occupation is bound to come to an end and Lebanon will survive but our efforts there should not necessarily be publicised," he said.

Asked about Kuwait's increasing foreign investments particularly in the United States and West Europe and changing policies towards investment in certain socialist states, Shaykh Sabah said there is nothing wrong to invest in West Europe or the U.S. as long as such investments are of interest to Kuwait. What is important is to create suitable investment climates, be it in the Eastern bloc or Africa, that would ensure good returns for Kuwait, he said, adding no politics is involved in this issue.

Asked that Kuwait's press which took over the role which used to be played by its Lebanese counterpart is causing sensitivities in the region, Shaykh Sabah said "it is my pride that our press had made such an achievement." [sentence as received] "Newspaper proprietors and journalists in Kuwait are fully aware of the region's circumstances and we hope our neighbours will not feel such sensitivities," he added.

"The unjustified Iraqi-Iranian war is our real problem. We tried to solve the conflict through the Islamic Conference Organization, the Non-aligned Movement and the United Nations," he further said. "We also made additional efforts along with our Algerian brothers but unfortunately without any Iranian response," Shaykh Sabah added.

Calling on both sides to end the conflict, Shaykh Sabah said "such a move would be an advantage to the whole region." He added "a new approach to the problem should be made when a fresh mediation conference is called." "Kuwait has no specific proposal in that respect but we will cooperate with other brothers in the effort to end that war," Shaykh Sabah said.

Questioned as to why Arabs did not follow the style of the United States and Europe in ending the Falkland war, Shaykh Sabah said "that is a real question mark. I have always questioned the motives of this war and whether the two powers are taking advantage by destroying the Arab world to keep it weak," he said.

The Iraqi-Iranian war was the direct cause of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and is responsible for the current disunity in the Arab world, Shaykh Sabah said.

It is therefore logical to blame the two big powers for their indifference towards the massive human losses in both countries, Kuwait's chief diplomat said adding the two superpowers were only interested in arms deals and domination.

Expressing agreement with an earlier view of Iraq's President Saddam Husayn that the two superpowers were not interested in an end of the war, Shaykh Sabah said no positive moves were made in that respect despite all United Nations resolutions.

Asked on Kuwait's reactions in case the war reaches its boundaries, Shaykh Sabah expressed hopes that the situation will not develop to such a level but said "everyone has a legitimate right to self defence."

Reminded that the Gulf Cooperation Council states are heavily spending on arms, the deputy premier said "we are capable to defend ourselves not only against possible aggression by the big powers, but also against all other dangers."

On Iran's doctrine of exporting the revolution, Shaykh Sabah said such a move will not be an easy one. "Our brothers in Iran might believe it is easy to export a revolution -- but they will find themselves exporting racialism for which there is no room in Kuwait," he added. An attempt for so called export of revolution was made in Bahrain but it was exposed, and "we hope that increased awareness will bring such attempts to an end," he said.

All states of the region should realize it was in their interest to cooperate with each other and not with revolutionist or non-revolutionist countries, he added.

Asked on the links between the Gulf conflict, the Lebanese war and the Palestinian problem, Shaykh Sabah said such a linkage was not ruled out but he declined to elaborate.

Asked if the big powers are planning to exploit Israel and Iran in policing the region, the deputy premier said "we hope to bring the Iraqi-Iranian war to an end so that Israel will have no role to play." Praising Iraq's efforts for a peaceful settlement, he said the two parties concerned should think twice because continuity of the war will provide Israel with a role in the region.

Asked to assess possibilities of good neighbourly relations between Iran and the Gulf states, the deputy premier said Kuwait did not sever diplomatic relations with Iran and all Gulf states are having diplomatic missions in Tehran.

"But this does not mean my approval that Iran should continue the war. I am one of those who strongly call on Iran to stop that war, Shaykh Sabah said. The war is no longer in Iranian territory and they have no excuse to continue the conflict, he said, and added the war is now meaningless.

Asked if he was still upholding his 1980 support of the call by late President Leonid Brezhnev for an international Mideast conference, the Kuwaiti diplomat said this was overtaken by the Fes summit which produced an Arab plan.

He summed up that the Palestinian cause can only be solved through participation of the two big powers. "Call it what you want, but Soviet participation is a necessity," Shaykh Sabah said, and added such participation could be at an international conference or any other platform.

Asked if Kuwait as the only state in the region maintaining diplomatic relations with Moscow is seeking stronger contacts between the Soviet Union and other Gulf states, Shaykh Sabah said every country has (?its own) policies to adopt.

"We called on Eastern and Western countries to hold trade exhibitions in Kuwait because we are maintaining diplomatic relations with all of them," he said. "If other states in the region also decided to follow suit we will be the first to welcome the move so as to create an East-West balance," he added.

The deputy premier (?said) that Kuwait will not take the initiative in creating Gulf-Soviet diplomatic links but he said it was in the interest of the region that a balance be created.

Replying to a question, Shaykh Sabah strongly denied that Kuwait was facing any international or Arab pressure to minimize relations with the Soviet Union or the socialist countries.

On the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, the deputy premier said "Egypt's absence is a loss to us." Describing Egypt as a country with huge manpower (?resources) and political weight, the Kuwaiti diplomat voiced hopes for its speedy return to Arab fold.

SAUDI ARABIA

'OFFICIAL SOURCE' DENIES OIL PRICE REDUCTION

GF061914 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] An official source at the Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ministry stated today that reports saying Ahmad Zaki Yamani, petroleum and mineral affairs minister, discussed with Aramco officials recently in Geneva the possibility of reducing oil prices, are completely untrue. The source said what has been reported in this regard are baseless speculations and affirmed that the Kingdom is still committed to the prices set by the OPEC countries.

'SOURCE' ON ARAB RESPONSE TO UK POSITION

PM061303 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Riyadh" Pym's Visit Will Take Place When Britain Changes Its Position on the Palestinian Question"]

[Excerpts] London-Riyadh -- A prominent British official confirmed yesterday that the British Government has initiated contacts to contain the crisis with Saudi Arabia following the latter's refusal to receive Foreign Secretary Francis Pym.

Although no official statement has been issued on the matter, a Saudi source told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the Kingdom has informed Britain that it would welcome a visit by Pym if Britain changed its position on the Palestinian question and dropped its reservations about receiving the seven-member Arab committee -- the delegation representing the Arab summit conference headed by King Hassan II and including a PLO representative.

The Saudi source told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Saudi Kingdom's position is frank and clear on this matter: It believes that on the Palestinian question and the Middle East crisis there has been an unacceptable backing down by Britain from the Venice Declaration and also in its relations with the PLO. British Minister of State Douglas Hurd received Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, within an Arab delegation headed by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah when that delegation visited London last July after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Saudi Arabia considers the latest British response insufficient from the Arab viewpoint and believes that Britain should take practical steps and not just diplomatic initiatives to calm feelings.

As regards the report that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will not change her position in spite of Arab anger, it has been learned that the practical Arab steps to be taken soon will be the real effective and decisive response.

BRITISH ENVOY RECALLED FOR CONSULTATION

GF070924 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 7 Jan (WAKH) -- A well-informed Arab diplomatic source has denied that the seven-member Arab committee has reached an agreement with Britain regarding the committee's visit to London.

In a report from Riyadh today, the Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ quoted that source as saying that the British stand has not changed regarding the participation of the PLO representative in the committee during its expected visit to London. The source affirmed that the British Government still insists on not receiving the committee should the committee insist on having a PLO representative at meetings to be held with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Francis Pym.

The same source revealed to the newspaper that the British Government has recalled its ambassador in Jidda for consultation about the current situation of Saudi-British relations. The source said that the British ambassador will leave Jidda for London today or tomorrow, and added that all the Arab countries which Pym was scheduled to visit have informed Britain of their desire to postpone this visit.

Furthermore, the source said that Morocco is exerting intensive efforts in order to settle the crisis between Britain and the Gulf countries which canceled Pym's visit, and that alternative proposals have been made to the British Foreign Office regarding the visit of the committee, including compromise solutions that would be acceptable to both parties.

Pym was supposed to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Oman in early January and Kuwait and Bahrain in early February.

UAE

PYM VISIT REJECTED OVER UK GOVERNMENT STAND

GF052040 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi -- A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry yesterday affirmed that the UAE informed Britain the day before yesterday that it is not willing to receive Francis Pym, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, who was supposed to arrive in the country on an official visit on 10 January.

The source told AL-KHALIJ that the UAE has adopted this stance in coordination with the countries which Pym was expected to visit and as an expression of its dissatisfaction over the British Government's stance which refused to receive the PLO representative who was a member of the seven-member committee formed by the Fes summit, which was assigned to explain the Arab peace plan to the permanent members of the Security Council.

PDRYYSP CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES SESSION

GF061344 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] This afternoon the YSP Central Committee concluded its eighth ordinary session, which began yesterday morning.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave a press statement on the results of the meetings, (?which will be broadcast) later today.

Press Statement

GF061820 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jan 83

["Text" of press statement issued by YSP Central Committee following its eighth ordinary session 5-6 January]

[Text] The YSP Central Committee held its eighth ordinary session 5-6 January 1983 under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It discussed a number of party, political, economic, and ideological issues in the framework of its evaluation of the activities of the leading party committees in 1982 to determine the main line of the new tasks for our party and people in the new year, 1983.

At the beginning of the session, the YSP Central Committee stood for 1 minute in respect for the souls of the victims of the earthquake which afflicted the Province of Dhamar, in the northern part of the homeland, and which inflicted heavy losses in lives and property among tens of thousands of citizens. The YSP Central Committee highly evaluated the contribution of the government and the popular and professional organizations in the southern part of the homeland in first aid services and in extending necessary aid to lessen the effect of this devastating catastrophe. This stand embodied the common national fate of the Yemeni people all over the homeland and our people's readiness to face all forms of calamities and difficulties it is facing.

The YSP Central Committee reviewed with great interest developments in the political situation on the regional, Arab, and international levels in view of the continued escalation of moves by imperialist forces, which are escalating their expansionist aggressive policy through a greater arms race and by initiating tension, building mobile and permanent military bases in the seas, oceans and gates of continents, encouraging their reactionary, fascist and racial foundations in their aggression and conspiracies against the national liberation movements and by threatening to use power to interfere in the internal affairs of the free and anti-imperialist countries -- further complicating the international situation and increasing the dangers of aggression and expansion at the expense of chances for peace and stability in the world.

In this regard, the YSP Central Committee highly valued the incessant peaceful efforts being made by peace-loving powers in the world -- particularly the countries of the socialist bloc, led by the Soviet Union -- aimed at limiting the arms race, enhancing detente on the international level and putting an end to the threats of wars and tension. The Soviet proposal to reduce nuclear arms is vitally important because it came after the Soviet Union's unilateral pledge not to be the first to use nuclear arms, as an expression of the Soviet Union's principled peaceful stand which goes in line with the interest and ambitions of all of mankind to live in peace, security, and stability.

The YSP Central Committee discussed what the regional and Arab arena is witnessing -- a noticeable escalation of the expansionist aggressive policy by U.S. imperialism and its base, Zionism. This force is practicing a policy of hostility toward legitimate Arab rights, violating their national sovereignty and controlling their fate. The YSP Central Committee affirmed the authenticity of the line of our foreign policy in 1982 on various regional, Arab and international issues and emphasized the need to continue intensive efforts to achieve the highest degree of confrontation and steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist campaign against our Arab peoples and their national and progressive forces and to achieve unity of Arab national and progressive forces and to achieve effective solidarity against conspiratorial projects by imperialist and Zionist forces so as to serve the national liberation issues of our Arab peoples, mainly the Palestinian cause, and to safeguard the security, stability, and progress of our Arab peoples.

In this regard, the YSP Central Committee discussed the grave military exercises being made by the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in the region and in other Arab places that are being carried out within the expansionist aggressive strategy of the U.S.-Zionist alliance against our Arab peoples. It emphasized the need to try every possible and necessary means to counter all forms of imperialist military moves that jeopardize the vital interests of the region's peoples and seriously undermine their security and stability and hamper the development of relations of cooperation and understanding among its peoples.

The YSP Central Committee denounced the new U.S. central military command to be stationed in one of the region's countries to command and direct the aggressive Rapid Deployment Force and prepare it for military missions in Middle East countries. The YSP Central Committee sees this step -- which is considered one of the gravest imperialist moves so far -- as another proof of the grave U.S. presence in the region and inseparable from the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel manifested in the widescale political, military, and financial U.S. aid for continued Israeli military aggressions against our Arab peoples. This latest aggression, the Israeli military invasion of Lebanon, is irrefutable proof that the United States and Israel are openly stating their intentions to completely control the region through various means and pretexts. The YSP Central Committee emphasized the need to denounce the formation of the U.S. military command in the region, affirming that this new aggressive step will not intimidate our peoples but will make them more determined to continue their decisive confrontation of all imperialist moves to tie our region to the wheel of the imperialists-Zionist alliance.

At the same time, the Central Committee calls on all Arab countries to concentrate their capabilities in order to resist the hostile acts of the imperialist and Zionist forces and work to maintain the independence and sovereignty of our Arab peoples and extricate them from the threat of the imperialist military presence.

The Central Committee also discussed the activity of the Political Bureau and the government regarding the developments of events in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas and highly assessed the results of contacts, consultations, and meetings held in this respect on all party and state levels. The Central Committee highly assessed the results of the meetings of the leaders of the Palestinian Revolution in Aden late last year.

The Central Committee noted that the strengthening of national unity and deepening of the struggle alliance with the Syrian and national Lebanese forces and the factions of the national Arab liberation movement represents a strong foundation for continuing the struggle steadfastness in face of all the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and is an affirmation of the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and establish their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative.

The YSP Central Committee hailed Syria's steadfastness in face of Zionist and imperialist challenges aimed at imposing the surrender and liquidation plans and at liquidating the Palestinian people. The Central Committee affirmed that the deepening of struggle and revolutionary alliance between Syria and the Palestinian Revolution is considered one of the major requirements of strengthening the steadfastness of the Arab masses and the national Arab progressive forces in face of the aggressive threats.

In this respect, the YSP Central Committee stressed the necessity of developing the position of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and strengthening the struggle unity among its members. It expressed complete support for the invitation presented by Brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, regarding the convening of a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit to study the situation and the current developments in the Arab region and confront the hostile challenges facing our Arab peoples and their national and progressive forces.

The YSP Central Committee also discussed the development of party and state relations with the parties and governments of the socialist countries and expressed satisfaction at the results achieved during the visits paid by the secretary general to the Soviet Union, the CSSR, and Bulgaria between the two Central Committee sessions and his meeting with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam in Moscow. It highly assessed the development and progress of the intimate struggle relations between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions in various fields. The Central Committee greeted the members of the second congress of the organizational committee of the friendly Ethiopian working people's party, the convening of which represents a great victory for the current revolutionary process in Ethiopia and for the national African and international liberation movement.

The YSP Central Committee noted that the achievements in foreign policy by our party and our progressive system on the Arab and international arenas represent a firmly established base for strengthening our struggle, and strategic socialist alliance with the liberating, progressive, socialist, and peaceful forces in the world to confront the imperialist and reactionary plans.

When evaluating the standard, at which the tasks of the party leadership organizations were executed during 1982, the YSP Central Committee expressed satisfaction at the persistent efforts exerted by the supreme party leadership organizations for executing their work plans last year. As a result of this, many tasks in connection with the party, political, economic, and ideological work, which is a part of the continuous revolutionary evolution and which is aimed at completing the tasks of the national, democratic, and socialist revolution and at strengthening the position of our country in the Arab revolutionary, Arab and international movement, were carried out.

By reviewing the reports and the experiences gained from the organized system last year, the Central Committee adopted work plans for party leadership organizations in 1983 in a way that represents an expansion of the tasks which were carried out and in a way that conforms with the new realistic developments. It stressed the necessity of giving adequate care and attention to their execution by the concerned organs and obviating any difficulties which may hinder their execution.

The YSP Central Committee gave more attention to the party situation. It highly assessed the tangible progress witnessed by the work of the party organizations in the provinces and the armed forces. It stressed the necessity of continuing to develop the methods of party leadership, strengthen party discipline and improve the means and methods of party education of members and alternate members on basis of strengthening internal democracy, expanding the party social base and increasing its influence in the lives of the youths and workers through their masses and trade organizations.

The Central Committee expressed satisfaction at the concrete progress in the work of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Union which is regarded as the organized reserve assisting the party. It stressed the necessity of increasing the effectiveness of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Union in introducing youths to the policy of the party, educating them in the spirit of scientific socialism and the world proletariat, and attracting them to participate in the general life of the society.

While congratulating the young people on the advent of the 10th annual youth week, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of the formation of their struggle organization [word indistinct] on 1 February, the YSP Central Committee hailed all initiatives and activities by the young people to commemorate this occasion that are taking place as part of the preparation to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution. It called on all young people, students at schools, and institutes and university colleges and in various positions of work to increase the efficiency of their work and achieve more success in education and learning.

The economic issue also received special interest in this session. The YSP Central Committee discussed economic issues concerning economic growth and the difficulties facing the economic and social march. It discussed the unified 1983 budget, including the plan for investment programs for the third year of the 5-year development plan, which is aimed at laying down the necessary foundations for more work to control the use of manpower and employ it in sectors of direct material production, widen the foundation of power and water production in various provinces of the republic, and improve public services in the fields of (?organization), health, culture, education, transportation, communications, and housing.

The YSP Central Committee highly evaluated the success of the laborers and workers, party and popular organizations, and the government's central and local organs achieved in implementing the projects of the second year in the 5-year plan and the efforts being made by government organs, citizens, and armed forces in facing the damages caused by the floods in the first half of 1982, all of which had a great effect in forming the deep revolutionary struggle traditions of our people and party and in overcoming various shortcomings and difficulties which are hampering progress for a new life and society.

The YSP Central Committee emphasized that preparations to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution are greeted with intensive efforts on the economic front. Various party and popular organizations and local and central organs should make all possible efforts to implement the projects of the third year of the 5-year plan, to complete the projects underway, reconstruct the installations which were damaged by floods and rain, and increase the volume and improve the quality of commodities to meet the citizens' needs for foodstuffs and consumer goods.

In reviewing the YSP Central Committee's activities for 1983, the ideological issue received special attention during the discussions of the session. The YSP Central Committee emphasized the need to increase the efficiency of political and ideological action in the party's internal affairs and society in general, achieve the best coordination in the activities of organs of culture, information and education, establish the necessary bases to prepare for the overall campaign to eliminate illiteracy, which will be launched in 1984, and devote more care to improve the quality of education and teaching and to solve the difficulties they are facing.

The vital discussions of the session and its resolutions are a mark of our success in the past year in carrying out many tasks defined under the plans of the supreme leading party committees and in the various new tasks, a thing which necessitates maximum efforts so that the year 1983 will witness more successes.

The YSP Central Committee called on all party organizations in the provinces, armed forces, popular organizations, organs of executive authority and the country's laborers and workers to turn the current preparations for the 20th anniversary of the revolution into an occasion to achieve the means of implementing the projects of the third year of the 5-year development plan, increase efficiency of work, safeguard public property in farms, factories, cooperatives, workshops, institutions, colleges and in all places of work and production, defend the homeland's sovereignty and the citizens' security, overcome economic difficulties, make extra efforts in savings and control expenditures.

ABU GHAZALAH WARNS OF GROWING ISRAELI STRENGTH

PM061253 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Dec 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Cairo bureau report: "Egyptian Defense Minister Warns of Growing Israeli Military Strength"]

[Text] Egyptian Defense Minister Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has declared that Israel is still adopting the pre-peace strategy based on military superiority over the entire Arab nation and that its military strength is steadily growing. Since 1973 the Israeli tank corps has increased by 82 percent, the artillery by 150 percent, the Israeli Air Force by 80 percent, armored vehicles by 200 percent, and naval strength by 140 percent. He said: Therefore, as Egyptians and Arabs we must view very cautiously the peace treaty signed with Israel, beware of this steady Israeli military growth and prepare ourselves to be strong and enhance our military deterrence capability so as to neutralize this force and create a balance in the area.

Abu Ghazalah, who was speaking to a joint meeting of the National Security, Arab Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees, said that Israel has still not declared the extent of Jewish immigration or defined its borders. It follows that it wants to create a strategic depth for itself in the area, and we must beware of this.

He said that Israel is still adhering to preconditions before it will withdraw from Lebanon and that, according to latest information about the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, Israel has no objection to withdrawing its forces from Lebanon provided it has early warning stations inside Lebanese territory. It also lays down the condition that the area up to the Az-Zahrani must be free of heavy weapons. It also insists that Major Sa'd Haddad should assume the responsibility of controlling southern Lebanon.

Why Does Sharon Get Angry

Marshal Abu Ghazalah wondered: Why does Sharon get angry over the maneuvers we carry out in Sinai? We want to raise the standard of our military forces' efficiency just as he does for his forces. We are not seeking to violate the peace treaty, as Sharon alleges.

It is recalled that Israel has forces on the Egyptian borders consisting of 10 armored brigades, 5 mechanized infantry brigades, 1 infantry brigade, and 5 Nahal battalions.

Regarding U.S. military strategy in the area, Abu Ghazalah said that, despite the strong Egyptian-U.S. friendship and cooperation, the United States has a specific military strategy in the area and has gone back to the method of deterrence and a firm stand against Soviet strategy in the area. It is also anxious to maintain an actual U.S. presence in the Middle East.

Abu Ghazalah also said that the U.S. strategy in the area aims in one way or another to make U.S.-Arab relations bilateral and shuns relations between the United States and an Arab bloc, because it is afraid that an Arab bloc might become a substitute for U.S. military presence.

About Soviet strategy in the area he said that the Soviets follow the strategy of an indirect approach in the area, since they are anxious to avoid a direct military confrontation between themselves and the United States. Soviet strategy tries to take advantage of the countries in the area that are facing certain difficulties. The developments that occurred last year and the year before have shown that the Soviets have designs in the Middle East. We also find that Soviet strategy is to try to establish a cordon around the Middle East region.

Egyptian Strategic Features

Abu Ghazalah proposed several principles for Egyptian national policy which he said are subject to debate and are aimed at achieving Egyptian national security. These are summed up in the proposition that Egypt should have military capabilities equal to those of its strongest neighbors and that these capabilities should be an effective deterrent force; Egypt should use every means to restore its Arab and African positions as well as its place inside the nonaligned group, develop the Egyptian economy in order to gain immunity against any economic threat, strengthen national unity, and achieve social security under a democratic system.

He defined the features of Egypt's higher national strategy as follows:

Pursuing a balanced foreign policy based on openness toward the entire world without discrimination.

Continuously seeking to lessen tension between the two superpowers in the area.

Adhering to Arab affiliation, seeking to resolve inter-Arab differences, and giving first priority to complementary relations with Sudan.

Adhering to peace because it is a primary Egyptian need.

Strengthening Egypt's African relations; Egypt must continue seeking to resolve regional African disputes.

Developing the Egyptian Armed Forces both in quality and quantity with a new ensuring Egypt's Arab deterrent force [as published] and providing military aid to the Arab countries should they ask for it.

Fighting sectarianism and deepening national feelings.

'ALI ON ISRAELI CLAIMS OVER SYRIAN SAM-5'S

NC061634 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Commenting on the crisis Israel is stirring up on the deployment of SAM-5's in Syrian territory, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said: Supposing such missiles exist, they would not change the current military situation in the area. He said that they do not pose a threat that requires escalating the situation or cast further shadows upon the current efforts being made by the various sides whether regarding the Lebanese crisis or the Middle East problem.

'ALI RECEIVES PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NC061648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali this afternoon received a Palestinian delegation including PLO Executive Committee members Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and Nabil Sha'ath. The meeting falls within the framework of the constant contacts and consultations between the Palestinian and Egyptian sides on the Palestinian issue and the peace process.

It is known that the Palestinian issue and the peace process will be among the most important topics President Husni Mubarak will discuss during his visit to the United States at the end of this month.

SADDAM HUSAYN SPEAKS ON ISRAEL, WAR, ECONOMY

JN061138 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA) -- The following is the text of the speech President Saddam Husayn delivered today on Baghdad radio and television on the occasion of the 62d anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, O sons of the glorious Arab nation, O brave fighters -- carriers of the banner of pride and glory -- O men stationed at the borders of great Iraq: On this glorious day we celebrate the 62d anniversary of the founding of our heroic Army. This is the third Army Day that we have celebrated while this army has been waging a war of honor in defense of the homeland, people, freedom, dignity, and security. Thus, the Iraqi Army is proving its greatness as seen by tangible evidence -- which has exceeded all expectations. This army has become a lofty banner not only in the history and life of Iraq but also in the history and life of the entire Arab nation.

Celebrating the Iraqi Army's anniversary has always been a cherished national occasion. However, the last three anniversaries of this occasion -- 1981, 1982, and this year 1983 -- have had a special meaning. This is the celebration of an army which has experienced a great deal and proven that it is the true defender of the homeland and the symbol of might and loftiness. Our valiant army has been waging this battle for 2 years and 4 months and after this long war -- which is the longest regular war in the world since World War II -- it is still positioned on Iraq's borders, strong and full of determination, moral potential and combat capability, dealing heavy blows to the greedy and rancorous enemy and destroying its sick dreams. We are not boasting when we say that this great accomplishment by the Iraqi Army and people is the greatest accomplishment of the modern age, not only in the history of Iraq but also in the history of the entire Arab nation.

Brethren: War is the toughest test of an army and a people. Nothing is more difficult or crucial than this test, particularly when the war is comprehensive and when it is fought only by the army and people, isolated from direct or indirect backing or cover from international powers. When the army and people pass such a test and achieve such honorable results, this is considered a great victory and a strong, concrete asset which guarantees the present and the future.

It is also the real hope which opens before the nation and overcomes its negative conditions along the path of steadfastness, development, and progress. The great Iraqi Army fought under all kinds of conditions. It fought inside Iraq when the regime of evil began its aggression on 4 September 1980. It also fought inside enemy territory when it was forced to remove enemy concentrations, reply to aggression and foil the premeditated large-scale offensive against Iraq. It fought and is still fighting along the borders of the homeland.

In all cases this great army waged all sorts of battles and experienced all sorts of military experiences. After all this it is today standing as strong as those brave ones who are full of resoluteness, faith and confidence in victory. Can there be a greater accomplishment? It is a great accomplishment by the army from the technical and military point of view. It is a great accomplishment for both the army and people, the homeland and the revolution, from all the strategic points of views of the war. It is a historical accomplishment whose final results will be important to the nation's present and future.

Today Iraq is standing on the toughest ground in its contemporary history. This stand is firmer and more secure than all other stands in the region.

It is true that Iraq is today waging a difficult battle in which it is offering dear sacrifices, but what is important is that Iraq has passed the test at a time when nobody knows how the region, under its present conditions, can confront such a test, even if it were less dangerous and more limited.

The true assessment of the ability and future of any country or regime is not made by direct superficial and instantaneous comparisons, such as saying that Iraq is now in a difficult position while the others are in a comfortable situation. The true comparison is between Iraq's present situation, with its inherent elements of strength, firmness, creativity, and principled stands, and the other possible situation if this region is compelled to go through the same test as Iraq or experience even a small part of this test.

Nobody should imagine that the danger in this region affects only some people. It is an overwhelming danger, which is immediate to some and not immediate to others. The danger, however, is inevitably coming, should it be given the option.

The collusion between the Tehran and Tel Aviv rulers has unveiled all the facts about which we have spoken and of which we have warned. Some people thought we were leveling accusations or exaggerating or making analyses to gain support for our political position. This alliance has unearthed a big fact -- the strategic danger that menaces the Arab nation. It is absolutely not a coincidence that the timing of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon was simultaneous with the repeated Iranian attempts to invade Iraq, despite all Iraq's just and fair initiatives to stop the war.

The Iranian rulers' aggression against Iran is not the fruit of coincidence nor is it a result of the Tehran rulers' reckless practices, ignorance and illusion. What has taken place is the real expression of the plot hatched against the Arab nation and of that premeditated plan aimed at disintegrating the Arab nation, at partitioning it to serfdoms subject to the will of Persia, the sons of Zion, and other international forces, and at striking at all the nation's aspirations for freedom, independence, unity, progress, and dignified life.

The aggression during the past months in particular is the largest unprecedented plot in contemporary Arab history. Iraq's steadfastness has undermined and exposed this plot. The great Iraqi Army, with its brave fighters who are replete with faith and dignity, together with the Popular Army, have shouldered the greatest historical responsibility toward brandishing the swords against this plot and toward foiling that part of the plot which is being implemented by the suspect Iranian rulers. The other part of the plot which is being implemented by the Zionists continues to threaten the nation, because those who are supposed to directly confront it have neither pursued Iraq's course nor have they contributed toward the steadfastness as Iraq did. They, instead, persisted in their treachery motivated by rancor and petty dreams to serve the enemies' schemes, be it willingly or unwillingly.

We are not boasting when we talk about the accomplishments of this great army. We are, rather, confirming great facts which are beyond description and which words cannot describe. Had it not been for the noble Iraqi Army, Iraq, the Arab Gulf states, the Arabian Peninsula, the countries of the Arab East would have not been in any better situation than Lebanon is now. Had it not been for the noble Iraqi Army, our land in this region, including the land of those who have extended their hands to the Tehran rulers prompted by rancor and shortsightedness, would have been an arena for the Persian, Zionist, and foreign troops, as well as an arena for the defeatists to attack their brothers. They wanted this situation to prevail in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the region.

The brave Iraqi Army and the great Iraqi people are the ones who buried the greater part of this conspiracy by checking it and disclosing its main secrets. The remaining part of the conspiracy, which is essentially being implemented by the Zionist enemy, continues to threaten the Arab homeland and Arab security and future.

Thus, on the basis of a thorough and objective assessment of this conspiracy and the nature of its evil objectives, and, out of our continuous desire to see this battle assume its pan-Arab nature, not only from the real final analysis that this is a battle in defense of the existence of the Arab nation and the future of its sons against the most dangerous and premeditated enemy onslaught to harm the nation, but also from the actual participation of the sons of the Arab nation in one of their biggest battles, if not the biggest battle of all time, we must mention with pride the Arab nation. These brothers, who have ignored the negative conditions and circumstances dominating the Arab reality, deserve to be mentioned in the annals of history like their Iraqi brothers for the great position they attained and rightly deserved through their sacrifices.

These are the facts, brothers, which explain how the war began and how it continued for such a long time.

The suspicious, pedants and nearsighted have given all kinds of false and erroneous explanations, interpretations, and theories on how this war began. They blamed Iraq, saying it started the war. But they have, whether wittingly or unwittingly, ignored one important fact: Namely, that this war is a very big international and Zionist conspiracy, which is aimed not only at Iraq, but the entire region and its security, freedom, prosperity, and hopes for progress and respectable life. Some stood by as spectators and others colluded with the enemy. Some realize and others do not that they are dragging the region to destruction and ruination under false and erroneous slogans and on the basis of analyses, of which some are shortsighted.

These facts explain the causes of this war and why it has continued without the intervention of the superpowers to stop it, although it is so close to major oil deposits over which world interests converge. Any tremor affecting these deposits would have caused panic in many world circles.

The war has continued for 28 months in this very sensitive region. Yet, those who rush to put out international fires in days or weeks, are still standing by watching and doing nothing, other than making statements which are not translated into tangible facts and effective measures. As a matter of fact, many of their actions and much of their behavior contradict their declared statements.

Brethren: Our just battle with this suspect, rancorous enemy has disclosed many facts both on the regional and international level. A well-established fact is that although the superpowers fear and warn against a comprehensive world war, in many cases they do not object to the eruption of local wars in this or that place. They may also instigate such wars and support them in various ways in order to achieve their own aims.

Another important fact is the stand adopted by Zionism and its entity in the occupied territory. The Zionist entity was established while the Arab nation was weak and backward and under foreign domination. This entity possessed scientific and technological superiority over the Arab countries in the military and civilian fields. It also enjoyed the sympathy and support of the West under the pretext of representing the more developed part of a backward area. Therefore, extending aid and support to this entity was given a cultural and humanitarian cover although this cover was basically false and had colonialist aims.

However, times have changed, the Arab situation has gradually developed and the Arab nation tried to progress in all fields. It began to bolster its international impact on more than one level. Its sons began to advance in the fields of science and knowledge. Zionism realized the great danger threatening it. It was the danger of the Arab nation's possible awakening to what was available in new methods and circumstances.

Zionism discovered that its scientific and technological superiority, in addition to its superiority in the field of war -- as acquired from the experience of its military institution during World War II -- and all the aid and experience extended to it by the Western countries were the target of annihilation due to the continuous advancement of the Arab homeland. By fearing this advancement, Zionism does not assess matters on the basis of the political identity of this or that regime or on the basis of what is said in this or that country. Its assessment is based on how seriously this or that regime is working for development and how much this or that regime is capable of changing the principles of life in society toward progress, capability, and independence, in addition to what is taking place in the daily life of that regime that has connection with the process of advancement, strength, and independence.

Zionism does not care if this regime is a revolutionary leftist or a liberal rightist one. What it cares about is the seriousness of this or that regime in the process of awakening although we are convinced -- as revolutionaries -- that development within a revolutionary framework is the state that can change the march of peoples in the developing countries. We also believe -- and this is something which is known by Zionism -- that the revolutionary concept that depends on words more than deeds although it might involve extremist slogans does not in itself pose a threat to it. We also believe that effective ideology should be based on serious and continuous work for development and construction.

The Zionist entity and world Zionism have been, and still are, watching this development in the Arab homeland. Although they would like to check and strike at this development everywhere in the Arab world, they could not face the Arabs collectively. Thus, they always resort to picking the most dangerous spot to them and striking at it. They know that such a strike is bound to affect and demoralize the entire Arab nation if it succeeds.

We have not forgotten the 1967 experience. The aim of that strike against the Arab nation was not only to seize more Arab territories, but primarily to deal a blow to the awakening, progress, and mounting strength taking place in Egypt which, despite what was said, constituted at that time the brightest spot in the Arab reality and the most dangerous threat to Zionist ambitions and expansionist plans. Thus, Zionism and its allies struck at Egypt and the potentials of Arab awakening.

Zionism and its entity in the occupied territory saw in new Iraq -- the Iraq of the July revolution -- a new base for the awakening of the Arab nation. They saw in Iraq the earnest experiment which works for awakening, progress, and strength which threatens their ambitions and plans for expansion and domination.

Zionism has revealed its hostility to new Iraq in many ways. Zionism and its international collaborators, who saw in the new constructive, solid, and independent line represented by new Iraq a threat to their plans to dominate the countries of the region, tried to sabotage this awakening and development process by every means. New Iraq faced all kinds of plotting, enticement, and threats. But all these attempts failed and Iraq continued with the process of awakening, progress, and strength.

Thus, the plans of covetous and expansionist Zionism and the international forces converged to stop the development and reconstruction process. They tried by every means to overthrow the regime and disrupt the development and reconstruction process. They tried from the inside and the outside, but they failed. Finally, they found in Khomeyni and perverted Khomeynism their long-cherished means to carry out their mean conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

This suspicious and rancorous backward regime in Tehran concentrated its hatred on and activity against Iraq right from the first day. Khomeyni came to achieve what Zionism and the international forces failed to achieve. He raised false slogans and advocated false Islam. He came to take the region tens and, in fact, hundreds of years backward. He came to sow discord and anarchy and spread backwardness and ruination. He wanted to turn the region into an arena for world power struggle. When the Khomeyni regime was about to collapse in its adventure against Iraq, world Zionism was compelled to come directly to its rescue by supplying it with funds and arms so it can continue its mean conspiracy against Iraq, the Arab nation and all the peoples and countries of the region.

World Zionism and the covetous international forces have exploited all the present contradictions in Iran and the Tehran rulers' evil motives and expansionist and hegemonous trends. They have even defended and propagated these rulers' suspect slogans despite the dissimilarity of intentions and objectives. World Zionism and the international forces are doing so because they found that this group, which is replete with rancor, charlatanism, and suspicion can serve as a tool to realize their objectives. Once their suspect mission has been accomplished, these rulers would then be able to deal with their fake slogans and settle their accounts with those who do not pursue their line until the end, but after severely sabotaging the process of development and progress in the region and after sapping their strength in their rancorous and suspect battles against the independent and advancing Iraq.

It is regrettable that world Zionism and some international forces have through their propaganda, diplomatic and intelligence methods, succeeded in instilling fear in the hearts of some Arab regimes over the development process in new Iraq -- the process which is only serving Iraq and the Arab nation and which is a vital part of the Arab nation defending its security, stability, and prosperity.

World Zionism and some international forces have also succeeded in arousing the apprehension of some Arabs and creating contradictions among them, a matter that has so far managed to prevent the emergence of a strong and serious Arab position not only against the Tehran regime's danger but also against all the dangers that are menacing the Arab nation. This situation has rendered the Arab reply weak and incompatible with the level of dangers despite the boundless and great resources that can beef up Arab solidarity and can provide the requisites of a comprehensive Arab steadfastness necessary to stop the Arab collapse, ward off the danger, put an end to the enemies and covetous forces and defend the nation's security, prosperity, and future.

For these reasons, brothers, the war is continuing. The eruption of the war against Iraq by this suspect and grudge-bearing regime in Iran and the supplying of this regime with all the requisites necessary to prolong the war by Zionism and some international forces, is not only a plot against Iraq but it is also a plot against the Arab nation, against the Arab civilization, and against the entire Arab security and future.

He who thinks that the continuation of the war would not harm him is gravely mistaken. Those who act in this manner are like the ostrich that buries its head in the sand when danger comes.

The continuation of the war and the persistence of the suspect Iranian regime in pursuing its expansionist aggressive course means that the plot, with its two parts -- the Iranian and Zionist -- will continue.

Iraq has, since the beginning, discovered the secrets of this plot and has confronted it with all valor and strength. The successive experiments and the Lebanese events have proved the soundness of Iraq's assessment and its options. Confronting the danger and preventing it from accomplishing its objectives is the best method to resist this danger. But leaving the danger to exacerbate or enabling it to attain part of its objectives until catastrophe falls and then start weeping about our luck is wrong and is bound to cause ordeals, pain, and humiliation to the Arab nation.

By sacrificing the precious blood of its sons, Iraq has spared itself and the countries of the region the manifold sacrifices which they would have sustained had the region been swept by the yellow winds from Tehran, winds which were carried by the currents of the international and world Zionist forces in order to destroy the region and its independence and all its hopes for development, progress, and prosperity.

Despite all sacrifices, Iraq, God willing, is still stronger and abler than many others in facing hardships and dangers.

Iraq has passed the test, and all it has to do now is to continue its firm line in confronting aggression and evil. God willing, we shall triumph. I do not have the slightest doubt about this. Our confidence in the present and future does not stem from delusion or conceit, but from a solid basis and facts, which were established in this test which Iraq has passed with God's help.

Brothers, dear Iraqis: In their premeditated conspiracy against beloved Iraq, the enemies used every means. They used religion as a false cover. But our people's maturity was lying in wait for them. By their strong faith in God and the heavenly values and by their sincere adherence to the homeland and its unity, our people succeeded in exposing this method, which was designed in the corridors of Zionism and international intelligence, and the renegade charlatans behind it, who tried to scare us by spreading false myths about the enemy's strength, fighting prowess and great number. But the battles of the past 28 months on land and sea and in the air, on mountains, and plains and inside Iran and Iraq have proved who is stronger and more successful, determined, and precise. Truth has triumphed over heresy and knowledge over ignorance.

If we were to reiterate all the lies that have been said about Iran's strength and the wiles of Khomeyni the charlatan and his clique in Zionist and international circles to scare us, it would take us many hours. But what is certain are the final tangible facts. When Iraq decided to strike at aggression and chase the aggressor inside his own territory, it did so successfully. When the enemy tried once again to invade our territory and attack our cities after we had withdrawn to the border, we repulsed it with our full strength and destroyed all its sick dreams with the strength of the people and army.

The brave fighting in the battles of the past 28 months is proof of that. The latest were the glorious epics east of Basra, Mandali, and Al-'Amarah, in which the waves of Khomeyni's invasion were crushed one after the other and the conceit of the suspicious charlatans in Tehran and Qom who dreamed of occupying Basra, threatening Baghdad, and taking Iraqi territory and people were dealt a crushing blow. The Iraqis confronted them as heroes. They performed immortal epics in defending the homeland and repulsing the invaders.

They tried all ways but failed. They will fail even if they try again, God willing. Iraq will remain strong, supported by the efforts of the Iraqis. The process of progress, development, and might will continue. The last method the enemies are trying to resort to is the economic method to harm our determination and steadfastness.

They were enraged to see Iraq's political and military success. They were enraged to see that Iraq has successfully confronted all kinds of plots and intrigues. They were enraged to see that Iraq has tremendously confronted the enemy. They were enraged to see that Iraq continues to prosper and that development continues on all levels. They mistakenly thought that by weakening Iraq's economic resources they would attain their objectives which they failed to attain by other means. However, they seem to be unaware of Iraq's reality.

Their sick minds made them think that such methods might possibly weaken the will of great Iraq. They have forgotten that more dangerous methods had failed to attain this objective. Although economy is important, it is not as dangerous and important as the military threat which aimed at invading and occupying Iraq -- the threat that was confronted and wiped out by the valiant Iraqis.

I would like here to pause at the Syrian regime's behavior, which stopped the flow of Iraqi oil via the pipeline which passes through Syria. This took place, as is known, after the Syrian regime concluded a deal with the Tehran rulers. The Damascus regime imagined that such behavior, would effect Iraq's economic conditions and would realize the dreams of the schemers in Damascus and Tehran as well as the dreams of those supporting them. I tell them on behalf of Iraq that such behavior -- although it shows the extent of their collusion with the nations's enemies -- implies that they suffer shortsightedness and indicates that they are completely unaware of the realities of new Iraq.

It is obvious that this behavior has caused us some harm. But it will greatly harm those responsible for it now and in the future. What is important in this field as in other fields is the final results. When the final results appear, the perpetrators of this behavior will realize the extent of the mistake they have committed and the harm they have sustained.

The people, who have valiantly and efficiently confronted all this hostility by the Tehran regime and who aborted all the Zionist and international forces' schemes, will surely not fail in managing their economic affairs during the third year of the war. The Iraqis have great political and military aptitude which has resulted in great successes, they have equal aptitude in the economic field, which is also capable of scoring the same successes and of continuing the process of building and progress.

O sons of lofty Iraq: The war has entered its third year. During the past period, we continued our war effort under economic prosperity which aroused the admiration of friends and the grudge of the rancorous. This year, however, we need to adjust our economic conditions in light of the circumstances of the war; in light of the conspiracies with which some people want to undermine our steadfastness and determination.

I, from the position of general authority, am now worried about the future in any field. I am sure that all Iraqis share my confidence. But we are called upon this year to adopt measures to curb any form of unnecessary expenditure and dispense with extra luxuries in order to protect our national economy and ensure the requirements for steadfastness against aggression so as to crush and bury the enemies, God willing.

All the Iraqis are called upon to economize in expenditures and to increase and improve production in all fields. The farmers are called upon to exert more effort and activity to increase the agricultural and animal production and to reduce the volume of our imports. The workers and industrialists in the socialist, mixed and private sectors are called upon to increase and improve the national output in order to satisfy our need for goods which will not be included in the important plan thus saving hard currency and supporting the economy and the military effort.

Government employees are called upon to scrutinize and halt any form of unnecessary expenditure and to improvise the means for achieving the aims at the lowest cost. Today, every Iraqi, man and woman, is called upon to adhere to a balanced economic program in all fields of expenditure, both government and personal ones. We have to save every dinar to support our national economy, preserve our economic renaissance and support our military effort against the aggression that aims to destroy Iraq and ruin its prosperity and achievements.

I am confident that every Iraqi, man and woman, will respond to this call. We have observed marvelous examples of devotion, sacrifice, and action in the battlefields during the 3 years of war to confirm my belief. I am also confident that during this year we will see marvelous examples of how the Iraqis will succeed in economizing on expenditure, increasing production, and finding the means to reduce our dependence on imports at every possible opportunity. The enlightened minds of the Iraqi men, and the benevolent spirit of the Iraqi women are called upon to act in this vital field and to strengthen its presence just as the Iraqis strengthened their marvelous presence in the battlefields of the war and in directly supporting it.

O dear Iraqis. O carriers of the banner of glory and honor. The gates of the future will open before you, God Almighty willing, by your sincere belief, good work, and sacrifice. The march of renaissance and progress which you began through your giant revolution will continue, God willing, and the conspirators, rancorous ones, and traitors will not succeed in obstructing or halting it. You have succeeded in all fields, proved that you are a nation that loves good, peace, and life, capable of fighting and defending the honorable values, and capable of confronting any form of obstacles and perils.

You have become the model example of the Arab nation and many of the world nations. You who enjoy your freedom, glory, honor and prosperity, you deserve more progress and prosperity. I am confident that with the help of God almighty, who protected and cared for you, you will continue the march of victory and progress, defeat your enemies and overcome all obstacles. The enemies and the rancorous will only reap disappointment, defeat and humiliation from their aggression and tyranny.

And you O sons of the armed forces, O men of the land, sea and air. I, along with many Iraqis, have said many things in praise of you. However, no matter how we describe your sacrifices and steadfastness we can never say enough. The epics of glory and courage which you have recorded are extensive and many and have surpassed in extent, number, and splendor all our imaginations and those of many others. You have fought under all circumstances and conditions and experienced any things. When the enemies and the spiteful ones wagered on your tiredness you surprised them with new vigor, stronger effort and with a higher standard of preparedness to sacrifice. When they wagered on your patience running out you surprised them with more patience and perseverance. Throughout this long period of war you have manifested every page of your glorious history -- the history which you have summarized during our present day with bright and glorious pages recorded by your strong arms, enlightened minds, steel will, and high spirits.

At the beginning of the war, some people drew a contrast between you and those capitulationists who are Arabs only in name, indicating the great difference between your spirit, courage, determination, and readiness to sacrifice and theirs. Now you are occupying a greater level, which is incomparable in history. You are now being described in terms which used to depict great warriors throughout the history of humanity, of Iraq and of the Arab nation. Our army is fighting such a long war and is emerging victorious. By God, our army occupies a most sublime position in the nation's history and, to be just and fair, in the history of other nations. You have given your country a great place in history -- a history which is commensurate with the Arab nation's history and aspirations. This is a great achievement which will be recorded with pride in the present and the future.

God bless you great fighters in Basra, Maysan, Mandali, and the northern sector; God bless the eagles of our Air Force; God bless the heroes of our Navy; and God bless all our men in the armed forces. God bless the men of the Popular Army who fight in battles of honor and glory side by side with our armed forces. You have proved that our people can rise to the level of sacrifice when the nation's honor is at stake, when these people find the means to fight and when they believe that they work for the future of their country and sons.

God bless all of you. The Iraqis love you and are proud of you. They hope that you will emerge victorious. I am confident of your victory. The Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi people in the south, center, and north are confident that you will emerge victorious. You are already victorious but you have only to continue in this victory and to carry it through to the end.

As for your mean, suspect, and rancorous enemies, they will reap failure, ruin, and frustration. We send you our greetings on the Army anniversary and we wish you success while defending the proud soil of Iraq, the sons and women of Iraq and the progress and advancement of Iraq. We send our greetings to our martyrs who have sacrificed their chaste blood in defense of Iraq and the Iraqis. They have become a beacon to light our paths for us and a symbol of our glory, dignity, security, and prosperity. May God have mercy on them and make paradise their final abode. Martyrs are loved by God. They are better than all of us. Iraq and the Iraqis will always remain indebted to them.

Brothers: Sons of proud and great Iraq. May God preserve you and grant you victory. You deserve to be glorious and great because you are a good and great nation. You carry aloft the banner of peace and justice. God bless you, God is great, dignity is for you, and God's peace and blessings be upon you.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 956

JN051732 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Communique No 956 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While performing its honorable and historical role of confronting the racist Iranian regime and fighting against its forces of aggression, the valiant Iraqi Army reaffirms its noble character and loyalty to the people, homeland, and the nation, its allegiance to the revolution, and its aspirations for freedom, progress, and prosperity. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our combat patrols yesterday evening attacked enemy concentrations opposite the positions of one of our units in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 18 and wounding many. The enemy also sustained 12 killed opposite the positions of our other units in the same sector.

2. Our fighter aircraft today raided enemy troop and armor concentrations and positions in the Maysan operational theater, scoring accurate hits. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base.

3. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units positions in the Maysan sector. Our units struck it with various weapons, killing four and forcing the rest of the enemy's force to flee leaving behind one vehicle, which was moved by our units to the rear lines. Our forward units also destroyed two observation posts in the same sector.

4. One was killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. The artillery of the rancorous Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra and Mandali intermittently, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 January 1983

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 957

JN061758 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed 16 Iranians, captured 2 soldiers, destroyed 3 hardware stockpiles and seized a quantity of serviceable medium and light weapons. This came during the military operations carried out by the Iraqi units against the Iranian enemy forces in the various operational sectors last night and today.

Communique No 957 issued tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command noted that the daring Iraqi fighter planes today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan sector, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 957 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave Iraqi Army, which is discharging its just and pan-Arab tasks, standing like a lofty mountain in the face of the covetous invaders and affirming its firmness and determination to continue the fighting until the final victory, God willing, and until the ruling charlatans in Qom and Tehran and those standing with them in the quagmire of treason and humiliation are crushed, will on its 62d anniversary remain faithful to its noble values and the principles of its mighty revolution and will continue its militant march behind its leader and liberation hero, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. As it was carrying out its tasks opposite our forward positions, one of our combat patrols managed to kill six Iranian personnel, captured two soldiers, and seized a quantity of medium and light weapons as well as serviceable hardware.

2. Our daring air force fighter planes today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct and effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base.

3. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our forward units in the area east of Basra. Our forces pounded the enemy troops, killing seven.

4. The suspect Iranian regime, today shelled Basra and Mandali with artillery, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 January 1983

AMMAN WEEKLY REPORTS ANDROPOV TO VISIT JORDAN 'SOON'

JN061524 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Yuriy Andropov CPSU Central Committee general secretary will soon make a tour of some Arab countries and that Jordan will be the first leg of the tour.

PRINCE HASAN RECEIVES U.S. SENATOR TSONGAS

JN061938 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] This morning, Crown Prince Hasan received in his office U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas and his delegation who are currently visiting Jordan. His highness reviewed with the guest the situation in the Middle East in general, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the Israeli expansionist settlement policy that aims at absorbing the Arab land, expelling its Arab inhabitants and Judaizing the region. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

AD-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS ARAB MAYOR OF JERUSALEM

JN061808 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 83 pp 1, 17

[Mohammad Abu Ghush dispatch]

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Anwar al-Khatib, who is currently visiting Jordan, has said that no settlement can be achieved in the region without the return of Jerusalem under Arab sovereignty. In a statement to AD-DUSTUR, Al-Khatib said: Despite the weak hope of reaching a settlement, the Arabism of Jerusalem must be the leading topic in any possible settlement.

Al-Khatib stressed that no document on the settlement can be accepted if it does not secure the return of Jerusalem. He added: If the return of Jerusalem hinders peace, then let this peace go to hell. He also said: If any settlement is achieved without this guarantee, it will be doomed to failure.

Al-Khatib denounced As-Sadat's stand on Jerusalem when he discarded the issue of Jerusalem in the Camp David negotiations, saying: As-Sadat was a victim of the U.S. inaction, of his ultimate trust in the United States and also a victim of Jerusalem.

He stressed that the faithful Muslim Egyptian people cannot accept either from As-Sadat or anyone else neglecting Jerusalem even if it is a difficult issue in the negotiations.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, he said: Our people have welcomed and are welcoming this rapprochement and hope that it will reach the phase of solidarity. He added: Our people strongly hope that this rapprochement, through joint action, will contribute toward the elimination of occupation.

Al-Khatib warned against the cancerous Zionist expansion, saying that if no serious action is taken to stop this expansion which aims at the territory, then after a few years we will not find anything to negotiate over. He pointed out in this regard that the Arab nation must realize that the Israeli settlements are being established daily, and that some Arab villages, such as (Al-'Aysawiyah) which is near Jerusalem, have lost some 90 percent of their territory. The danger, he added, is spreading rapidly. Al-Khatib stressed that saving the land is a vital, urgent and indisputable objective.

On the PLO situation inside the occupied territories and the independent Palestinian decision, he said: Our people express pride over and confidence in the PLO, its leadership and fighters who fought bravely in Lebanon and held out for 80 days in Beirut. They endured a great deal and left the Lebanese capital only to save the civilians.

He also said: In a referendum conducted by some press institutions in the West Bank following the invasion of Lebanon, our people expressed their complete satisfaction with the Jordanian, Palestinian rapprochement and strongly denounced the interference in the freedom of the Palestinian decision.

On the Arab peace plan, he said: The Arab initiative which was approved by the Fes summit is positive, but it is like any other initiative which should have a force to protect it. He also called for strengthening the Arab capabilities and resources and for deploying them in this field.

On the possibility of reaching a settlement in Lebanon and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, Al-Khatib said: Israel seeks to impose its own concept of peace. In fact, the invasion of Lebanon was an attempt to impose peace in its own way, but it failed. This is why it is attempting to impose the peace on any country.

Al-Khatib warned of an Israeli military adventure if it finds out that the Americans are serious about implementing Reagan's initiative, although I am sure that the Americans are not serious in bringing pressure to bear on Israel. He added: My confidence in the United States is weak, and our experience with the Americans is bitter, because there are many initiatives that the Americans called for and retreated from, foremost being the Rogers' plan which Jordan and the late 'Abd an-Nasir had accepted. There were also many other U.S. promises and initiatives and we still remember Carter's deviant and fickle era.

On the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and the effect of this on the balance of power in the region, Al-Khatib ruled out Egypt having a role in the interest of the Arab struggle against Israel as long as it remains linked to Camp David. Moreover, it will not deviate from Camp David unless a change in the armed force takes place.

He said: The Egyptian people reject normalization and we can tell that by virtue of our presence in the occupied territory, contrary to some Lebanese factions which recently visited Jerusalem during Christmas [as published]. I would like to stress that the Arab people are faithful, good and reject normalization in all cases.

On the British stand on the seven-member Arab committee, he said: Britain is the source of the problem, and it is the one which established the "national homeland" for Israel through the Balfour Declaration. Although it is supposed to feel guilty toward the Palestinian people, Britain refused to receive a PLO representative as part of the seven-member committee, thus showing that they are a people with no conscience.

Al-Khatib drew attention to an Israeli campaign in the Knesset to stop the construction operations in Al-Aqsa Mosque. He added that a Knesset committee has also been formed, the tasks of which are aimed at stopping the work of Al-Aqsa's construction committee. On the other hand, he said that one of Al-Aqsa Mosque's yards has been named after Sabra and Shatilla.

Al-Khatib concluded, saying that he had discussed with the Jordanian officials the matter of securing the financial appropriations required for Al-Aqsa Mosque's construction operations which need a lot of time and effort.

AL-WAZZAN TENDERS RESIGNATION OVER COMPROMISES

JN070711 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Beirut — Well-informed Lebanese political sources have mentioned that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tendered his resignation to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in protest over compromises which the head of the Lebanese negotiating team made during the fourth round of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Qiryat Shemona yesterday.

The sources said that Prime Minister al-Wazzan withdrew his resignation when President al-Jumayyil complied with his stand and instructed the Lebanese delegation to consult the prime minister with regard to any changes in the Lebanese position during the negotiations.

The same sources added that, accordingly, the Lebanese delegation turned down the new Israeli proposals concerning the normalization of relations with Lebanon after a telephone conversation between the head of the delegation and President al-Jumayyil.

AL-JUMAYYIL, OTHERS REVIEW QIRYAT SHEMONA TALKS

NC061912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held a meeting at the Republican Palace this evening attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ghazzan Tuwayni, and the Lebanese delegation to the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations. During the meeting a review was made of the atmosphere and discussions which took place at the fourth round of the negotiations in Qiryat Shemona today.

NEW U.S. PROPOSALS CALLED 'REASONABLE'

NC062124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Official sources this evening expressed the belief that the new U.S. proposals to untie the knot in the agenda question at the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations are reasonable.

Ambassador Morris Draper, the head of the U.S. side in the negotiations, submitted his new proposals in the course of consultations during the fourth round of the negotiations, held in Qiryat Shemona today. The new proposals are tantamount to a draft of a new plan for the agenda.

This draft was evaluated during the meeting held this evening under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in the Republican Palace and attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ghazzan Tuwayni, and the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations. The Lebanese delegation explained the U.S. proposals that were considered in Qiryat Shemona. The state leaders are expected to continue their consultations on this matter in the coming few days prior to the fifth round of the negotiations, to be held in Khaldah on Monday and to assess any Israeli position on these proposals which might be announced.

AL-WAZZAN, KARAMI DISCUSS SITUATION IN TRIPOLI

NC061749 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today contacted [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Tripoli and discussed with him the situation prevailing in the northern capital and the results of Karami's visit to Damascus.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan then contacted the director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, and was briefed by him on the security situation in Tripoli. He asked Ash-Sha'ar to increase the number of security forces and strengthen them with additional vehicles and weapons to enable them to deploy and carry out their duty in maintaining security in the city.

'ARAFAT TO VISIT TRIPOLI 'IN NEXT 48 HOURS'

NC061236 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] According to information available to us, [PLO Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat will visit Tripoli within the next 48 hours to hold contacts with the parties to stop the security deterioration.

The information adds that 'Arafat will arrive in Damascus today to hold a meeting with the Syrian leadership on the situation in Tripoli.

SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI 6 JAN

NC061600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in Tripoli at noon today and joined the coordination committee's meetings. The meetings were also attended by Syrian Deputy Defense Minister 'Ali Aslan, who informed Damascus yesterday of his inability to put an end to the fighting in Tripoli. This prompted Minister Talas to come to Tripoli.

TRIPOLI CLASHES EASE; SYRIAN FORCES REINFORCED

NC062014 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1945 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] According to the latest security report on the situation in Tripoli, the intensity of the indiscriminate shelling eased at 1900, but clashes are continuing in Ba'l Muhsin, At-Tabbanah and a number of other areas. Intensive sniping dominates the situation in the streets surrounding the scenes of the clashes.

Additional forces of the Syrian defense squads today entered Ba'l Muhsin to reinforce their positions. New quantities of weapons and ammunition were also brought in.

ISRAELI REINFORCEMENTS, MANEUVERS REPORTED

NC070857 Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 7 (AFP) -- Israeli troops have moved in tanks, artillery batteries and supply trucks to the Al-Biqa' plain in central Lebanon, to strengthen their positions opposite Syrian forces, the Lebanese daily AN-NAHAR reported today.

The paper said Israeli troops, supported by tanks and field artillery, had begun maneuvers using live ammunition.

ISRAELI TANKS TAKE UP POSITION IN ASH-SHUWAYFAT

NC061555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Before noon today, the Israeli forces stationed five tanks and armored vehicles at the Ash-Shuwayfat road junction and fired a number of shells and bursts of gunfire at the Kafr Shima forests and then directed fire at the old Sidon road.

REPORTAGE ON QUIRYAT SHEMONA TALKS 6 JANUARY

Delegations Still Talking

TA061407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] The Lebanese, U.S. and Israeli delegations in Qiryat Shemona are continuing to hold separate consultations. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the head of the Lebanese delegation held a nearly 15-minute long conversation with President Amin al-Jumayyil. The head of the Israeli delegation called Minister Yitzhaq Shamir several times.

Communique on Talks

TA061519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1513 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Statement read by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Avi Pazner in Qiryat Shemona -- recorded]

[Text] In our deliberations today, new ideas were broached as to how to reach an agreed-upon agenda for the negotiations. The talks were productive and were conducted in a friendly atmosphere. The delegations will report to their respective governments about these ideas, and the negotiations will continue on Monday in Khaldah.

[Replying to indistinct question] Well, we will not now enter into detail, and will make do with issuing this communique.

6 Jan Session Ends

TA061509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Another session of the Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. delegations has ended in Qiryat Shemona. In that meeting, the Americans raised a number of new ideas regarding normalization. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the replies from Jerusalem and Beirut to these proposals say that they are certainly negotiable, and that they will be discussed at the Cabinet session. Our correspondent has learned that the Lebanese delegation has rescinded some proposals it raised last week which the Israeli Government has already approved.

VOL Reports on Talks

NC061542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1503 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Dear listeners: We shift again to Qiryat Shemona so that our team there can provide us with the latest developments.

[Begin recording] This is the Voice of Lebanon speaking to you from Qiryat Shemona and we apologize for the interruption in the communications between us and the Voice of Lebanon radio.

The fourth round of the Lebanese-American-Israeli discussions ended at 1645 [1445 GMT]. Major Tarabay read the following statement on behalf of the Lebanese side:

New ideas on how to reach an agenda were discussed. The talks were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The delegations will report these ideas to their chiefs [as heard] and the negotiations will resume in Khaldah at 1000 next Monday.

Here ends the statement. This statement came following consultations among the delegations. U.S. Ambassador Morris Draper played the role of mediator. He proposed a draft agenda. The Lebanese delegation referred back to its government through contacts with the political [as heard] room in B'abda Palace, and it was given the necessary instructions. The Israeli delegation also referred to its government. The statement which we read was issued as a result.

Actually, a senior official of the Israeli Foreign Ministry has been eager to brief reporters on part of the Israeli view at the negotiations which have taken place. He said that new U.S. ideas have been presented to reach an agreed upon agenda on Monday. The official declined to hint at or explain anything about these new ideas. However, he said that these ideas were today the subject of continuous consultations between Jerusalem and Beirut and that they will be debated in the next 2 days after the delegations convey them to their governments. The spokesman pointed out that a draft agreement was reached last Monday, but that the Lebanese side rejected it after the Israeli side had accepted it with reservations. He added that the goal which Israel is seeking in the negotiations is to guarantee its security and the independence of Lebanon. The spokesman expressed optimism about the achievement of progress in the future particularly at next Monday's meeting in Khaldah.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Morris Draper has left Qiryat Shemona for Jerusalem to hold continuous contacts with the Israeli leadership on reaching an agreement.

The Voice of Lebanon team has since this morning been providing you with the latest details connected with the progress of the negotiations here in Qiryat Shemona. With sunset, we return with you to our studios at the Voice of Lebanon radio. [end recording]

LEBANESE 'GOING BACK' ON KHALDAH PROPOSALS

TA061612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] This weekend, the Israeli and Lebanese delegations will discuss the new proposals raised by the United States. These are new ideas regarding the field of bilateral relations between Israel and Lebanon. Morris Draper suggested a breakdown of items on the agenda under the heading: "bilateral relations."

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the head of the Israeli delegation complained about the Lebanese having gone back on proposals they raised in Khaldah after these had already been accepted by the Israeli Government. Even though we were very doubtful and had our reservations, the Israeli Cabinet decided to respond favorably to the Lebanese proposals, David Kimche said, so it is a pity the Beirut government revoked its earlier proposals.

ESSING ON U.S. PROPOSAL AT QIRYAT SHEMONA

TA061824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Report by David Essing -- recorded]

[Text] At long last, there may be some movement on solving the agenda issue. In informal talks today, American delegate Morris Draper raised a new proposal that neither Israel's David Kimche nor Lebanon's Antoine Fattal rejected outright. Both the Israeli and Lebanese negotiators were in contact with Jerusalem and Beirut on the proposal. No details are available about the American draft, but it is aimed at solving the agenda issue for both Israel and Lebanon. The proposal deals not only with normalization, but with the whole agenda.

Israeli sources say there is no breakthrough yet and there are still many problems involved in Draper's draft proposal. The Israeli steering committee, headed by Prime Minister Begin, will discuss the proposal possibly tomorrow or on Sunday.

During today's session, Israel's David Kimche reiterated that Israel's aim in the negotiations is to insure security for Israel and independence for a sovereign Lebanon and to establish good-neighborly relations. Kimche asked Fattal: How can we reach such an agreement if we can't define our relations on the agenda? We should not hide this intention under the table.

ISRAEL SAID READY TO ACCEPT DRAPER PROPOSAL

TA070728 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] In the political negotiations there is a new compromise proposal by U.S. envoy Morris Draper. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Israel will accept the proposal if the Government of Lebanon accepts it as well.

[Begin Frankel recording] From the details revealed about the new proposal, it seems that it is close in spirit to the Israeli stand -- so close, apparently, that a political element told us last night that there might not be any need to convene the negotiation's steering committee. If the Lebanese come to the negotiating table on Monday with confirmation of the proposal, Israel will accept it as well. So said the political element. The U.S. formula promises discussion of the normalization subject; headed by the ending of the state of war. It seems that Israel's demands about content and Lebanon's demands about form will be met. Draper presented the new proposal for the agenda in an informal meeting between the heads of delegations when it seemed as if the negotiations had come to a dead end. Draper caught the interest of his listeners, the proposal was written down and the representatives hurried to report to their superiors in Beirut and Jerusalem. The official reactions, at least, were subdued, with both countries announcing that they do not reject the idea outright and promising to check it in the respective steering committees.

Earlier in the morning, the Lebanese delegation demanded to discuss the proposal presented by Draper 2 days ago in Jerusalem.

That is, there will not be one version for the agenda, but two versions. Israel rejected this claim. Director General of the Foreign Ministry David Kimche reminded his colleagues from Lebanon that they backed off from a proposal they brought up in a former meeting at the beginning of the week. Negotiations cannot be run this way, Kimche said. But, as stated this was during the morning. In the afternoon Draper made a new proposal. It can be assumed that if the new formula does face difficulties, then it will be in Beirut and not in Jerusalem. Israel is ready in principle to accept the U.S. envoy's proposal. [end recording]

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON LEBANON, MEDIA LEAKS

TA061817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has just concluded his address at the ceremony opening the journalism and communications department at the Bar-ilan University. Among other issues, he discussed Israel's foreign relations and the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations. Here is a report from Bar-ilan University by our correspondent Meron Tzur:

[Begin recording] [Tzur] If one wants to achieve reasonable security conditions along the Israeli-Lebanese border, this will only be attainable if we maintain good relations of mutual trust and cooperation between Israel and Lebanon, and if this cooperation is on a daily basis, involving the IDF and the Lebanese Army, the Israeli Government and the Lebanese Government, in order to avoid a situation where we might need a second operation like the peace for Galilee Operation. At this point, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir added:

[Shamir] The Lebanese Government, and its president, understand this and comprehend our reasons as expressed in the negotiations, whether in Khaldah or Qiryat Shemona. In both these negotiating places we have not heard any logical reasons -- for that matter, we do not hear any comment -- against our demands. Only one thing can be heard both inside the negotiating hall and outside it: There is unceasing pressure by Arab elements, Arab countries, on Lebanon. This is being waged daily, against peace and against good-neighborly relations or peaceful coexistence with Israel. Yet not one person in the world raises his eyebrows in an expression of amazement, no one protests this.

[Tzur] The foreign minister added that some media channels in Israel similarly do not agree with Israel's position, and support and opposite position. He added, among other things, that the media's unbridled desire to disclose state secrets is something that marks us as different from any other country in the world. We have reached a peak. So much so, the foreign minister said, that when I appear in a foreign country to meet its foreign minister, I tell him that I am ashamed of the plague of leaks from Israel. [end recording]

Further Details

TA062013 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1940 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Bar-ilan University, 6 Jan (ITIM) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the Lebanese president and government understand Israel's arguments in its desire to establish relations of trust and cooperation between the two countries, including relations between the two armies, in intelligence, supervision and implementation of measures. However, he said, Lebanon is under constant pressure by the Arab countries against good-neighborly relations or peaceful coexistence between the two countries.

Shamir announced that Israel would welcome King Husayn's joining the peace negotiations as part of the Camp David accords.

The foreign minister was speaking at the opening of the journalism and communications department of the Bar-ilan University. He devoted part of his speech to the ongoing negotiations with Lebanon, saying that Israel is determined to maintain peaceful relations with that country. He recalled the latest statements made by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, that his organization has never given up, nor will ever give up military operations, and moreover boasted of the latest terrorist actions against Israel. In this context, Shamir said that these remarks by the terrorist leader impressed none of the leaders of European countries, and unfortunately they continue to claim that the PLO has forsaken the path of terrorist struggle and is consequently worthy of consideration.

"The enemies of Israel are allowed to raise military options, and may even oppose our peace efforts, but we in Israel must not defend ourselves against such options and are not allowed to demand peaceful coexistence from our neighbors," Minister Shamir noted sorrowfully.

He emphasized: "We will defend ourselves in the face of this reality."

The major part of his speech was devoted to settling accounts with the members of the media in Israel and abroad, particularly in the course of the peace for Galilee war. He pointed out that the balance that was shaken damaged the public and the country, and added that it is the duty of the leaders of society and the chief proponents of the communications systems to find a way to maintain that balance. "We have suffered from distortions and misrepresentations, and we continue to suffer from them," the minister said, accusing the media corps of contributing to deepening the internal argument in Israel. "The attitude toward the Peace for Galilee Operation was negative and so damaging that the media corps itself understood that it went too far and even played foul games," he said. He said that many world media channels are currently taking accounts, and have moreover carried out research in an attempt to correct the evils of exaggeration and distortion of the Israeli moves during the war. Minister Shamir added that no one in Israel pleads guilty or makes penance; everyone is righteous and clever. He said that in his travels abroad, members of the press told him that they had gleaned their information in the course of the war from Israeli media reports, so he should not come to them with complaints.

He expressed the hope that the new Bar-ilan journalist training unit would produce media representatives who would absorb the atmosphere of their alma mater so as not to engage in distortions or mudslinging.

He then talked about the problem of leaks, saying that there is no country in the world where secrets are so openly disclosed as in Israel. This is being done by the media, too. "This is a malady, even a plague," the minister said. "World leaders are afraid to conduct a dialogue with us for fear that their words might be immediately published by the media in Israel. Some leaders who wish to cooperate with us, and even transact mutually beneficial deals with us, still reject us for fear of the plague of leaks," the minister said. And asked: "You, members of the press, with an honorable past and a level of professionalism, is the scoop really worth the national damage?"

He said that newspaper editors in Israel have been telling him that the one responsible is the leaker, "but I argue that the one who spreads the leak is also unclean, because in criminal trials both the thief and the person who purchases the fenced goods are identically guilty."

The Bar-Ilan journalism and communications unit centers on training its students toward the professional work of reporting in one of the media fields: journalism, television or radio. The unit will give its graduates a diploma upon completing their studies. It now trains 80 students and is supported by the Philip (Shlomowitz) Foundation. (Shlomowitz) is a senior editor of Jewish newspapers in the United States.

EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES FREEZE IN TIES

TA061915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali denied reports that there is a freeze in normalization with Israel. Interviewed by a correspondent for the Jewish News Agency JTA [Jewish Telegraph Agency], 'Ali said that the implementation of all clauses of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt is continuing, and all the joint committees meet regularly, as scheduled. Nevertheless, Foreign Minister 'Ali again said that the Egyptian ambassador would only return to Tel Aviv when agreement is reached on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He also said that Egypt would accept any arbitration and the resultant decision on Tabah.

EGYPT CANCELS TENDER WON BY ISRAELI COMPANY

TA031257 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jan 83 p 10

[Report by Shim'on Rapaport]

[Excerpt] The Egyptians have cancelled the results of a tender won by the Israeli plant fertilizers and chemical materials to supply \$4 million worth of fertilizer. It is believed that the tender was cancelled because of political reasons.

The fertilizers plant took the trouble of sending its representative to Egypt so that he could be present at the time of the submission of the tender to supply fertilizer. When the tender was opened it emerged that the Haifa plant's proposal was cheaper by one or two dollars a ton than the other competitors, but the deal did not go through. Efforts by the plant's personnel to discover the reason in the tenders committee and among other commercial elements in Egypt were in vain. All the responses were polite but vague, and they contained the implication that the deal had been cancelled for political reasons, apparently by orders "from above."

The tender was publicized again, hastily, before representatives of fertilizers could appear during the submission procedures. When the second tender was opened, it emerged that the Tunisian and Moroccan competitors' proposals were a dollar or two cheaper per ton, as the Israelis' proposal had been the last time.

CHIEF OF STAFF ON SOVIET, SYRIAN INTENTIONS

TA061430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan believes the Soviets will man the missile batteries they stationed deep inside Syrian territory, but in his opinion they did not come in order to fight Israel with the help of those missiles. Rather, they were sent to Syria in order to restrain Syria. He said the SAM-5's technology is known to Israel, and it will not be too difficult to provide an adequate answer to them. He added that the Syrian Army has increased in real terms, and that by the end of next year they will have another two armored divisions and most of their tanks will be T-72's. In his opinion, the Syrians can be expected to make an effort to increase their commando battalions and their navy. The chief of staff also said that the Katyushas which were stationed in UNIFIL-controlled zones and discovered not long ago could not land in Qiryat Shemona. They were hidden as early as during the conflict, and it was found out that the local inhabitants placed them there in return for money. The investigation into this is still underway.

EYTAN ON JORDAN, WEST BANK, LEBANON

TA061740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal -- recorded]

[Excerpt] The Jordanians have been trying to be firm against the terrorists and are not allowing them to rebel. In reply to a question, the chief of staff said: It is not merely accidental that we are placing emphasis on Judaea and Samaria.

[Begin Eytan recording] Judaea and Samaria are more important than the 'Arava, in the military sense. It is impossible to introduce large forces into the 'Arava; it is only possible to introduce forces into that area along two small axes: the first through Al-'Aqabah, and the second through (?Tati) in the southern part of the Dead Sea. These two axes can very easily be blocked. [end recording]

[Tal] The chief of staff was asked about the moods among the IDF soldiers in Lebanon, and what he thinks about those who say they object to staying there. He replied: I have experienced such periods in the past, too, on the banks of the Suez Canal, where we suffered 800 dead. What do people expect us to do now, he asked, leave Lebanon?

[Begin Eytan recording] Imagine us pulling out of there, because of the cold or the heat, because of fire, water or God knows what -- or because of shouts. We might then forfeit the goals of the war, the successes of the war, in one blow. This is not like the attrition that occurred along the Suez Canal, where one day 22 soldiers were killed, and then there were suggestions that we carry out a partial withdrawal and get away from there. Then Golda Me'ir said: This is treason. It would be a betrayal for anyone to accept these Rogers ideas. [end recording]

CHIEF OF STAFF ON LEBANON WAR OBJECTIVES

TA060850 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 83 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Last night Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan disclosed that at the beginning of the war in Lebanon, when the IDF received the directives for the campaign from the Cabinet, there was no mention at all of the objective being to drive the terrorists to a range of 40 km from the border. According to him, all that was mentioned was the destruction of the terrorists with their bases, driving them away from the border and avoiding a clash with the Syrian Army.

The chief of staff, who was speaking at the world conference of the World Union of Jewish Students in Jerusalem, pointed out that it was only at a later stage, when talk of the arrangements with Lebanon started, that the 40-km range was also mentioned. According to him, the IDF had to reach Beirut during the war because that was the center of PLO and Arab terrorism. He said that if we had not expelled the terrorists from Beirut, we would not have obtained any objective and there would again be threats of Katyushas against the northern settlements.

Lt Gen Eytan emphasized that Judaea and Samaria were Eretz Yisra'el.

According to him, if we return Judaea and Samaria, we will not be able to continue to exist and defend ourselves.

Referring to criticism leveled against him because of his statements on political issues. Lt Gen Eytan said that (?there) is no law determining what restrictions apply to me on political issues. For us, the line between a security and political issue is very fine."

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY SUPPLYING USSR WITH COMPUTERS

TA070918 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jan 83 p 5

["Exclusive" report from Paris to correspondent in France Gid'on Kuts]

[Text] "Israel is clandestinely exporting computers and other advanced technological software to the Soviet Union," reports the French weekly, VSD [VENDREDI SAMEDI DIMANCHE].

The weekly says that this exporting has been done through Finnish companies controlled by the Soviet Union. Officially the computers are being exported to Finland, but in fact they go to the Soviet Union.

According to the report, the Israeli exports are intended to bypass the boycott the United States has imposed on the supply of computers and other strategic material to the Soviets.

ALGERIANIGER'S KOUNTCHE LEAVES ALGIERS 6 JANUARY

LD061756 Algiers APS in English 1310 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 6/1/83 (APS) -- President Seyni Kountche, president of the Higher Military Council and president of Republic of Niger, left Algiers today after working and friendly visit in Algeria.

CUBA'S FLAVIO BRAVO ARRIVES 5 JANUARY

LD070500 Algiers APS in English 1313 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 6/1/83 (APS) -- The president of the Cuban People's Power National Assembly, Mr Flavio Bravo, heading an important delegation, flew in yesterday for a few days visit. He was greeted by Mr Rabah Bitat, head of the People's National Assembly (APN), Politburo member, and other APN members. Mr Flavio Bravo underlined in a statement to the press, the close links that tied up the Cuban and Algerian peoples and the traditional relations between both governments and peoples. He precised that his visit would be an opportunity to exchange experiences namely in the parliamentary and legislative fields.

PRC PREMIER CABLES THANKS TO ABDELGHANI

PM061305 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Dec 82 p 16

[APS report: "Message of Thanks From Zhao Ziyang to Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani"]

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Politburo and prime minister, has received a message of thanks sent to him by Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, when he left Algeria.

The following is the text of the message:

As we leave your country, taking with us the Algerian people's deep feelings of friendship toward the Chinese people, my colleagues and I would like to express to you and your government our sincere thanks for the magnificent welcome we were given.

I will have pleasant and lasting memories of this visit. I am convinced that, thanks to the efforts made by both sides, friendly cooperation between China and Algeria will yield abundant fruit.

I wish Your Excellency good health and complete success in your work.

ABDELGHANI MEETS WITH SDAR COUNTERPART

LD060420 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Political Bureau member and prime minister, has received Mafoud Ali Beiba, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, who was accompanied by the official in charge of external relations of the Polisario Front. The meeting, which was confined to reviewing bilateral relations and the prevailing situation in the region, was attended by the secretary general of the Cabinet, [name indistinct].

ETHIOPIAERITREAN OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON MERGER, FIGHTING

GF061720 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (QNA) -- Forty-five Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 60 others were seriously wounded yesterday in the first military operation coordinated between two organizations within the Eritrean Liberation Front, the Popular Liberation Forces and the Revolutionary Council, in accordance with the principled merger agreement concluded between them last January.

Mohamed Osman (Abu Bakr), representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front -- Popular Liberation Forces -- in the Gulf, stated that the Eritrean revolutionaries carried out military operations against the Ethiopian forces during their advance from the Ethiopian city of Hamra on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border to the city of (Qorqof), western Eritrea. He pointed out that the Ethiopian forces were forced to disperse in the forests of (Maluba) as a result of the successful Eritrean military operation to avoid ambushes laid for them.

In a statement to QNA, the Eritrean official noted that a merger agreement will be signed by the leaders of the three factions of the Eritrean revolution -- the Popular Liberation Forces, the Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary Committee -- in one of the Arab Gulf capitals this January to merge them into one organization under one command and one army. He added that the signing of the merger agreement will be a fulfillment of the Eritrean people's demands and a culmination of the efforts the Arab League made in this direction. This agreement will escalate military operations against the Ethiopian forces and intensify political moves on the international level to explain the Eritrean cause and the Eritrean people's right to self-determination after 20 years of struggle. It will also counter the seventh military campaign Ethiopia is preparing by building up its immense military forces to liquidate the Eritrean cause and impose the military solution on the Eritrean people.

(Abu Bakr) added that Ethiopian opposition against the Ethiopian regime and its war against Eritrea is continuously increasing on political and military levels and that a secret trial is going on for a great number of politicians and military men who are opposing this war and who were arrested during the recent widescale arrest campaign.

The Eritrean official called on the OAU and the United Nations to work to stop the mass annihilation the Eritrean people are being subjected to by Ethiopia to liquidate them and their cause. He also called upon Islamic countries to support the Muslim Eritrean people in their struggle to liberate their land and to support their cause at international forums and in international organizations.

SOMALIAITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES 6 JAN

EA062048 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Mr Bettino Craxi, secretary general of the Italian Socialist Party, arrived in Somalia today leading a large delegation for a 4-day official visit. Mr Bettino Craxi and his delegation were warmly welcomed at Mogadishu International Airport by Challe Major General Hussein Kulmie Afrah, second vice president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], members of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee and the People's National Assembly, and other senior party and government officials. Challe Kulmie, second SDR vice president, in his welcoming address at the airport VIP lounge said: We welcome you to your second home and we hope that your visit will greatly strengthen relations and cooperation between our two countries, peoples, and parties.

Siad Barre, Craxi Hold Talks

EA062054 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Summary] Official talks between the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] and the visiting Italian Socialist Party [PSI] delegations opened at the People's Hall in Mogadishu this afternoon. The SRSP delegation to the talks is led by Mohamed Siad Barre, SRSP secretary general, while that of the PSI is led by Secretary General Bettino Craxi.

"Addressing the delegates, SRSP Secretary General Challe Mohamed Siad Barre welcomed Mr Bettino Craxi and his delegation to Somalia and asked them to feel at home. Referring to the continued provocative aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] by Abyssinia and its allies, Challe Siad said that they will not succeed with their invasion. SRSP Secretary General Challe Mohamed Siad Barre also highlighted the SDR's economic, social, political, and other achievements.

"Mr Craxi, PSI secretary general, spoke at the opening of the official talks and thanked the SDR people, party, and government for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation, adding that their visit will greatly strengthen interparty relations and cooperation and mutual assistance between the two countries."

Craxi Promises 'Pressure'

AU070835 Rome ANSA in English 0805 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] (ANSA) -- Mogadishu, January 7 -- The Italian Socialist Party has pledged to pressure the Rome government to help Somalia with its economic and defensive plans, according to party secretary Bettino Craxi, currently on a trip to this African nation at the invitation of the secretary-general of the Somalia Revolutionary Socialist Party and head of state Mohamed Siad Barre. Craxi was welcomed to Somalia yesterday by Second Vice President General Hussein Kulmie Afrah and told him that he wanted to personally take stock of the situation in this country.

The Craxi visit comes in a new atmosphere of popular enthusiasm for a further strengthening of Italo-Somalities [as received], an official document said. Craxi has already met with President Siad Barre and other Mogadishu leaders and in coming days will visit other regions of the country.

CONGOSASSOU-NGUESSO, ZHAO ZIYANG BANQUET SPEECHES

AB051843 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Although it was brief, lasting only 2 days, the visit of Zhao Ziyang, premier of the Chinese Council of State, was a success. Two documents enable us to see the positive results of this visit: first, the official statements made during the visit by the Congolese head of state and by the Chinese premier; second, the press release issued at the end of the visit. From all that we have seen and heard since 4 January, when the Chinese statesman arrived, up to the time he left Brazzaville, we can say that the Chinese and Congolese were fully satisfied with the road they have covered together since February 1964, when diplomatic relations were officially established between our two countries. We also noted that the Congolese highly appreciated this visit and the fact that Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee, president of the republic, head of state and chairman of the Council of Ministers, went personally to the plane to welcome the Chinese premier is highly significant. By this gesture and in his speech delivered during the banquet offered in honor of our illustrious guest, the Congolese head of state paid a resounding tribute to our Chinese friends working in Congo and expressed his full satisfaction at seeing China and Congo combine their efforts to strengthen the Third World struggle against imperialism and all the forces of domination.

[Begin Sassou-Nguesso recording] Your visit bears testimony to the interest your country and its leaders take in the People's Republic of Congo. We are very flattered. We have indeed had proof for many years of the PRC's exemplary and rich cooperation with its Third World partners. The Congolese people have always been and will remain attentive to the effective work done by the discrete and devoted builders represented by the Chinese technicians in our various work sites. [applause] Whether it rains or snows, whether it is windy or it is too hot, our Chinese friends have always made it a point to perform their duties, thus demonstrating a revolutionary devotion and morality which has earned for them the admiration and esteem of all. [applause] I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to these people without whom our cooperation would have no solid basis. (?Sakola), Sotexco [Congolese textile company], the (Mokokoulou) dam, the 31 June hospital, the (Makolokolo) and (Kalangaye) hospitals and very soon the congress palace are among the immense international achievements of which Congo and China can be justly proud. [applause]

Comrade premier of the Council of State, during my visit to your great country, and particularly during the banquet given in my honor on 7 July 1980, I had the opportunity to express happiness with the state of the various relations existing between our two countries. On that occasion, I expressed my commitment to maintain these relations at that excellent level. I am happy to note that we have fulfilled our pledge and that China and Congo are more than ever determined to combine their efforts in order to strengthen the struggles of the peoples of the Third World against imperialism, all the forces of domination, racism and apartheid and for the advent of a more equitable and balanced international system in which each people can play their full role. [end recording]

There is also total satisfaction on the Chinese side. Our friends have learned a lot from their present visit to our country and they will never forget it. This was clearly stated last night by Premier Zhao Ziyang in his reply to President Sassou-Nguesso's toast at last night's banquet.

[Begin Zhao recording in Mandarin, fading into French translation] Our visit to your country is a (?great success) and reveals to us that our Congolese hosts have thoroughly prepared it. I have held talks with the comrades president and prime minister. During the talks we made a broad and thorough exchange of views on our bilateral relations and on current world issues. The talks were very cordial and fruitful.

The Chinese and Congolese peoples are bound by a profound friendship. Our comrades working in Congolese urban or rural areas [words indistinct], proving that the friendship between China and Congo is solidly fixed in the hearts of our people. the Congolese people can also feel this. The two peoples are now engaged in a joint effort to support the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and to carry out the task of national construction. They have always shown (?solidarity with) each other. As developing countries, China and Congo have always given each other political support and maintained friendly cooperation in the fields of economy and technology. Our cooperation, which is consistent with the interests of our respective peoples, is yielding fruit.

In pursuing its policy of mutual advantage, efficiency and diversified efforts for common development, the Chinese Government is ready to outline with the Congolese Government the new areas for (?common action) with a view to further developing their economic and technical cooperation.

Dear friends, as we leave you tomorrow, we will never forget our visit to your country. [end recording]

Finally, a press release issued at the end of that visit has confirmed its success and satisfaction. According to the release, the two sides examined their bilateral relations and noted the progress achieved in the implementation of their program of cooperation. They noted with satisfaction the existence of bright prospects for the cooperation and agreed to further strengthen it. In this regard, they will continue to look for ways and means to make their economic and technical relations more effective and fruitful through well-chosen sectors of cooperation.

On the international front, the two sides reaffirmed their attachment to the fundamental principles of the United Nations, notably to the principles of self-determination and the people's right to choose their destiny. The two sides held the view that the racist regime in South Africa is a source of threat against world peace and security.

In this regard, they demanded the elimination of the odious policy of apartheid in South Africa and the establishment of a Black majority rule as well as Namibia's accession to independence in compliance with the UN decisions and resolutions.

One can conclude that the communique is proof of the success of that visit and the satisfaction it has provided. It also underlines the identity of views between the two countries on the current international issues.

Zhao Departs for Zambia

AB051323 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] The 2-day official visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang to the Congo ended this morning at 0900. In fact, it is the first visit of a Chinese head of government in the 19 years since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries. The Chinese premier is on his way to Zambia on the eighth leg of his African tour which began on 20 December 1982.

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT LEAVES AFTER VISIT

AB052033 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Cuban Vice President Juan Almeida, who visited Congo from 31 December 1982 to 4 January 1983, has left the country. Yesterday afternoon, he was received in audience before his departure by Comrade (?Jean Paul Tita) Tchicaya, who briefed him on the major programs of his department. The leader of the Cuban delegation assessed his stay in Congo and expressed his great satisfaction with the reception accorded him and his delegation and with his contacts with officials of the Congolese Labor Party.

ZAIREMOBUTU, PRC'S ZHAO SPEAK AT KINSHASA BANQUET

AB031229 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The major event at the beginning of this week is still the visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang. This visit is considered an indication of the interest the PRC has always taken in Africa. This is what Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko said last night during the banquet he gave in honor of his illustrious Chinese guest Zhao Ziyang.

This visit, the founding chairman also said, is the expression of the sincere and candid friendship between China and Zaire and their two peoples that has existed since the historic date on which the two nations established diplomatic relations. He then noted with satisfaction that the relations between China and Zaire are excellent at a time when tension and violence characterize international relations throughout the world.

After enumerating the major international political and economic problems on which they had identical views, Mobutu Sese Seko said that China has always given its support to the stands and claims of the Third World countries which makes it a privileged ally of the nonaligned countries. In this connection he also underscored the real significance of Chinese cooperation and assistance which, he stressed, is not just in the form of occasional aid but applies the Chinese adage which says that it does not suffice to help someone by giving him fish, it is more important to teach him how to fish. He then went on to cite results achieved in various areas of this cooperation. In the agricultural area, for instance, the Chinese mission had already surpassed itself by the installation of centers for the popularization of agricultural techniques at Mbazangungu, Kinshasa-Njili, Kiku, Lubumbashi, Mbandaka, Boumba and Gbadolite. The current development of the (Lotokila) sugar complex in the Haute Zaire Region, the development of the factory for production of agricultural equipment, he stated, adds further credit to the list of outstanding performance of cooperation in the agricultural field.

In the military area, Chinese instructors have proved their perfect mastery of arms by helping to train a brigade of commandos at Kisangani who can intervene effectively at any time in defense of the territorial integrity. Earlier, the founding chairman had placed special emphasis on the construction of the People's Palace which, he said, constitutes a true monument to the glory of the Sino-Zairian solidarity.

In his reply, Zhao Ziyang began by stressing President Mobutu's desire to maintain and to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation with China, a desire which was eloquently translated through the warm welcome accorded him on his arrival and Marshal Mobutu's four visits to China.

The Republic of Zaire, which has a vast territory and is rich in natural resources, is known the world over as a geological scandal. It is a young state with immense development potential and its people, with glorious anti-imperialist and anticolonialist traditions, have waged a relentless struggle for the independence and the freedom of the country. These are the words of Mr Zhao Ziyang. Under the leadership of President Mobutu Sese Seko, Zaire has achieved national unity, safeguarded national independence, and national sovereignty, and made untiring efforts for economic development and national culture. At the international level the Government of Zaire applies a policy of neutrality and nonalignment; it is against imperialism, colonialism and the policy of strength; supports the just struggle of the Namibian and South African people; respects the principles of good neighborliness; and strives to maintain African solidarity. It enthusiastically supported South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue and has achieved considerable work for the transformation of existing international economic relations which are unfair. The Chinese people are happy with the successes scored by the Zairian people to whom we wholeheartedly wish new victories in its forward march.

China and Zaire are two friends, the Chinese premier concluded. Despite the geographical distance, President Mobutu Sese Seko has visited China on four occasions thus contributing considerably to the establishment and development of friendly cooperation between China and Zaire. Recently, our two countries celebrated the 10th anniversary of the normalization of relations and during the past 10 years, Sino-Zairian relations have developed considerably on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence and the two parties proceeded with fruitful cooperation in numerous fields. In looking back at the past and in looking to the future, we are convinced that relations of friendship and cooperation between Zaire and China will have further successes thanks to the concerted efforts of both sides.

Zhao Departs for Congo

AB041512 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Excerpt] "It is with great joy that at the invitation of Zaire, we have paid a friendly visit to this country at the beginning of this new year. We were warmly welcomed. We are very grateful to the authorities as well as the people. Our friends of the Marble Palace also must be thanked for their hospitality." This is the French translation of what Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang wrote in the Golden Book of the Marble Palace at 0830 after the final discussions with Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the MPR founding chairman and Zairian president.

The MPR founding chairman parted with his guest after a warm handshake reflecting the identity of views between the two sides.

Meanwhile, the Chinese premier's aircraft left the Ndjili International Airport at 0930 this morning for the People's Republic of Congo. Zhao Ziyang was seen off by his Zairian counterpart, Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo; Citizen Kamada Wa Kamanda, the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Citizen Tuma-Waku Dia Bazika, the Zairian ambassador to Beijing; and Li Shanyi; the PRC ambassador to Zaire, as well as Citizen (Sekombi Yi Koke), the governor of the city of Kinshasa. Also present was Colonel (Vassinge), the commander of the city.

PRC To Reinvest Loan Funds

ABO41342 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1245 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 3 Jan (AZAP) — During his discussions on Monday with Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, announced that in view of the present difficulties, his government has decided that his country's \$100 million loan to the Republic of Zaire will not be repaid but rather reinvested in Zaire.

This decision means that instead of repaying its debt in foreign exchange, Zaire will pay in Zairian currency for its participation in all the Chinese-Zairian joint projects.

It will be remembered in fact that during President Mobutu Sese Seko's official visit to the PRC in 1973, that country granted a loan of \$100 million to Zaire, \$38 million of which was meant for the construction of the People's Palace while the rest was to be used for other sectors including the agricultural and medical fields. The grace period for the repayment of the debt was 10 years and is to expire on 10 July 1983.

This gesture by the PRC is in conformity with the Chinese tradition of frank and sincere cooperation with the Third World countries. President of the Republic Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, who is gifted with great foresight, recalled this noble tradition in his speech during the banquet offered in honor of the Chinese guest on Sunday, 2 January 1983.

MALICUBAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN BAMAKO 6 JAN

AB062112 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Major Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Republic of Cuba, arrived in Bamako this afternoon. He was welcomed upon arrival by General Amadou Baba Diara, deputy secretary general of the party. Also present were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the bureau of the National Assembly and the diplomatic corps. Juan Almeida Bosque said he was very satisfied with the welcome given him this afternoon in Bamako-Senou and he also said that he has come to hold talks with the Malian authorities on issues concerning bilateral cooperation and the Nonaligned Movement. [passage indistinct]

It will be recalled that the Cuban vice president will pay a courtesy call on Gen Amadou Baba Diara tomorrow morning before going to Koulouba where he will take part in the working meeting between the Malians and Cubans.

NIGERKOUNTCHE RETURNS FROM ALGERIA; DECLARATION ISSUED

AB070833 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Excerpts] President Seyni Kountche returned to Niamey this afternoon after his friendly working visit to Algeria. He was welcomed at the Niamey Airport by General Henri Depi Yacouba, the grand chancellor of Niger's national orders, and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Sebly, chief of staff of the Niger Armed Forces. Also present at the airport were the members of the government and the diplomatic corps. In a statement to the press, the head of state expressed his feeling on his short visit to Algeria:

[Begin recording] In signing the convention on the demarcation of the 950-km border between Algeria and Niger, the two countries have just made a historic move. I must recall that at the OAU summit in 1964, the heads of state and government of our continent upheld the principle of intangible borders inherited from the colonial administration. So Niger and Algeria have just acted (?in compliance with) that historic decision. [end recording]

The head of state's visit was marked by a joint declaration between Algeria and Niger. Adama Mohamane reports on the declaration:

Considering the long-standing close economic, social and cultural ties between the peoples of Niger and Algeria; considering the desire to expand and strengthen the ties of brotherhood and good neighborliness and to promote the closest and most fruitful cooperation between Niger and Algeria at all levels; having signed, in pursuance of this goal, a convention on border demarcation in Algiers on 5 January 1983 between Niger and Algeria, His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid and President Seyni Kountche declare the following:

The demarcation of the common border between Algeria and Niger is proof of the two countries' belief in the need to consolidate the relations of good neighborliness and fruitful cooperation between them on the basis of mutual respect for their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Through this event of historic significance, the two presidents pledged the attachment of their two countries to the establishment of a peaceful and friendly atmosphere between all neighboring states by adopting viable conventions to guarantee the territorial integrity and provide for peaceful solutions to problems inherent to neighborly relations.

The two leaders took the opportunity to examine the brotherly cooperation existing between their two countries, which are developing satisfactorily. They agreed to work resolutely to extend that cooperation to include all sectors of common interest, notably the economic, scientific and technical sectors. They pledged their sustained effort toward strengthening the ties of friendship, solidarity and mutual trust on the basis of positive good neighborliness with a view to promoting their cooperation, which will thus result in a dynamic atmosphere for the establishment of inter-African cooperation in conformity to the OAU Charter.

They expressed their firm belief that the spirit which prevailed over their meeting -- based on their attachment to African unity, the cohesion and solidarity among African people, the virtues of dialogue and consultations among African countries as well as the noble ideals of the OAU Charter -- will contribute to safeguarding the OAU as the most appropriate tool for Africa's aspiration to peace, dignity and prosperity. In this connection, the two heads of state made a solemn appeal for efforts and moves to be initiated in order to break the deadlock in the OAU. They expressed their determination to work toward this salutary goal in order to help complete the liberation of Africa from the last bastion of colonialism and racial discrimination and to achieve the economic development of the continent.

The two heads of state reasserted their constant desire for a (?more fruitful) Arab-African cooperation and for economic and technical cooperation between (?African) states.

They reaffirmed their attachment to the strengthening of the liberation efforts in the Nonaligned Movement aimed essentially at eradicating colonialism, promoting the right to self-determination for all peoples, safeguarding world peace and security and preserving Africa from East-West rivalries.

In conclusion, they hoped that the political will which prompted them to adhere to the principles of the OAU Charter and to the UN Charter would provide the inspiration likely to help consolidate the natural feelings of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity among all peoples and promote the realization of their aspiration to peace and prosperity in the world.

SOUTH AFRICARAND DAILY MAIL ON MISSING BLACK SOLDIER

MB070903 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 7 Jan 83 p 1

[By Don Marshall]

[Text] Corporal Stephen Mutasa, a black professional soldier whose whereabouts have been unknown since early last month when he was abducted by Zimbabwean soldiers from South African territory, emerged in Harare this week and said he had no intention of returning to South Africa.

The former member of the British South Africa Police, who joined the South African Defence Force in 1980 after Mr Robert Mugabe was voted into power, is a free man again and has been reunited with his family in a Harare suburb, according to a spokesman for the South African Government.

He delivered his message about not wanting to return when he met representatives of the South African Government in the Zimbabwean capital on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the South African trade mission in Harare last night confirmed such a meeting had taken place.

"I saw him yesterday (Wednesday) in Harare. He has since been released by the Zimbabwean authorities and I believe he has been reunited with his parents, wife and children in a Harare suburb," the spokesman said. Commenting on his decision not to return to his unit in the northern Transvaal, the spokesman said Cpl Mutasa said he was happy to be back in Zimbabwe with his family and did not want to return to South Africa.

"He spoke well of South Africa and the treatment he received while serving as a member of the South African Defence Force," the spokesman said.

Although several Zimbabwean Government officials were present during the meeting, Cpl Mutasa did not appear to be under any kind of pressure from the Zimbabwean authorities.

He was dressed in civilian clothes for the meeting, the South African Government representative said last night.

Although Cpl Mutasa did not say so in direct terms, he did indicate he had been forced across the border by Zimbabweans, thought at the time to be members of that country's army dressed in civilian clothing.

The news of Cpl Mutasa's release must be something of an embarrassment to the South African authorities, who made a big issue of his abduction at the time.

In trying to draw attention to the tense situation along South Africa's borders with her northern neighbors, the South African Defence Force arranged a special flight to take members of the press to the area west of Messina and Beitbridge, where the soldier was alleged abducted.

Yesterday the Department of Foreign Affairs had a statement prepared on the latest developments in the affair. The statement was only released "on enquiry," indicating the government was not going out of its way to publicise these developments.

The statement reads: "Cpl Mutasa, who was abducted on December 3, 1982, and who was held by the Zimbabwean authorities, was released last Monday. In the presence of Zimbabwean authorities, he told representatives of the South African Government that he had no intention of returning to South Africa.

"He is and remains a member of the South African Defence Force and he is free to return to South Africa at any time to obtain an honourable discharge.

"Unless he returns to South Africa, he will be regarded as a deserter and will be dishonourably discharged from the Army."

Cpl Mutasa was, according to the SADF, one of 17 former Rhodesian soldiers who crossed the Limpopo at the time of Zimbabwe's independence to join the SADF. He was given South African status and was carrying an SADF identity document at the time of his abduction.

He and another former Rhodesian soldier, Rifleman Christian Ndou, were checking on illegal immigrants at a crossing in the Limpopo River, the Defence Force announced at the time.

Last Night, a spokesman for the SADF said there was nothing to add to the statement issued on December 3 on Cpl Mutasa's abduction.

FOUNDING MEMBER OF LABOR PARTY RESIGNS

MB051436 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Mr Norman Middleton, a founding member of the Labor Party and former deputy leader and leader of the party in Natal, has resigned from the party at its 17th annual congress at Eshowe. Mr Middleton, who voted during the congress against supporting the government's constitutional proposals, gave no reason for his resignation.

The Labor Party's 1982 office holders were all reelected at the congress. They are the national leader, the Reverend H.J. Hendrikse; the deputy national leader, Mr I. (Richards); the national chairman, Mr D.M.G. (Currie); and the national vice chairman, Mr C.R. (Redcliffe).

JOHANNESBURG COMMENTARY WELCOMES U.S. POLICY

MB061736 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Station commentary: "U.S.-South African Relations"]

[Text] Two years of Reagan government have brought about profound changes in official American policy toward South Africa. The extent of the change is underlined by the reaction to the Colored Labor Party's decision to participate in the new constitutional dispensation. A spokesman for the State Department said it supported the decision, which demonstrated that evolution toward more representative government in South Africa was underway.

The statement is a far cry from the ideologically bound views that emanated from the State Department under previous administrations, yet it is altogether in keeping with what has been a remarkably consistent line of development of President Ronald Reagan. Its starting point was acknowledgement of the complexities of South Africa's race politics, its awesome challenges, in Dr Chester Crocker's phrase.

In that situation, President Reagan said in his first policy statement on the subject: The United States should be helpful rather than obstructionist in respect of the reforms that were in progress inside the country. That stand was part of a broader strategy for southern Africa, based on the need to protect American interests in a region that is under threat from Soviet expansionism. The four main objectives were outlined in congressional testimony last month by Mr Princeton Lyman, Dr Crocker's deputy on the African affairs desk. They are: ensuring the security of the Cape sea route, continued access to strategic minerals in South Africa, regional security, and in that context, fostering movement in South Africa toward government by consent, without laying down blueprints.

The outcome has been constructive engagement, a policy which has had substantial benefits for both sides in its application in an increasing number of areas. The most dramatic results have been in the area of regional security. On South-West Africa, the linkage of a settlement with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was an acknowledgement by the United States that its own wider interests required the removal of a Soviet-directed military force from the region.

Rejection of cross-border terrorism has been even more emphatic. After the raid on ANC bases in Maseru last month, the State Department issued a statement condemning all terrorist and other violent acts committed by the ANC. South Africa must resolve its own complex problems in a manner acceptable to its own people. Indeed, it insists on its right to do so. In that endeavor, the sympathetic support of the leading power in the West is a substantial plus factor.

ZAMBIA

ZHAO ZIYANG MEETS WITH ANC, SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES

ABO61901 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 6 Jan 83

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Lusaka, Jan, 6 (AFP) -- Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, in a ground-breaking gesture of support, met here today with leaders of two Soviet-allied black Southern African guerrilla movements and wished them success in their fight against the white-minority South African regime.

After a 10-minute open session with Mr Zhao, President Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and officials of the South-West Africa People's Organization of Namibia (SWAPO) went into a closed, substantive meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

Prior to the talks, an ANC spokesman was guardedly optimistic that China might for the first time provide diplomatic or material support for his movement. "Talks can lead to other things," he said.

Peking has traditionally backed the rival Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) group in South Africa, while the Soviet bloc has armed and trained ANC and SWAPO insurgents.

Mr Zhao, who on arrival in Zambia yesterday praised the "Namibian and South African people engaged in the arduous struggle to win independence and liberation," today gave his "cordial regards and best wishes" to the ANC.

"I wish you new successes in this new year", he said, referring to the ANC's fight against apartheid and SWAPO's against the South African military occupation of Namibia in defiance of the United Nations.

Mr Tambo, the ANC leader, told Mr Zhao, "your declaration of support for our struggle is most timely...please convey to the Communist Party and the people of China our hopes that we shall be supported in this final phase of the struggle."

The ANC president said that Mr Zhao, who is on a swing through three of the southern African Front-line states as part of his 11-nation African tour, had "come to that part of Africa where a most stubborn, brutal regime is being confronted by the people of Namibia and South Africa led by SWAPO and ANC."

Political observers noted that the Chinese premier's meeting with the two movements seemed to mark a departure for Peking's policy in southern Africa.

Until now China had generally supported nationalist rivals to Soviet-backed movements -- in the Angolan civil war, in Zimbabwe and in South Africa notably. But the declaration of friendship for SWAPO and ANC, coupled with the possibility of concrete Chinese aid, indicated a pragmatism in keeping with Chinese attempts to project an image as a strong ally of the Third World in the face of Soviet "hegemonism" and Western "colonialism".

The new amicable attitude toward Angola-based SWAPO, especially, [word indistinct] in harmony with China's announcement earlier this year that it would establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet-backed MPLA regime in Luanda.

During Angola's independence war in 1975-76, Peking supported the rival FNLA and UNITA groups. UNITA is today a recipient of South African military assistance in its continuing war against Luanda.

Mr Zhao's meeting today with the ANC and SWAPO leaders was held in a conference room in the closely-guarded Zambian Defense Ministry complex. The venue was not announced beforehand for security reasons.

Since the South African commando raid against ANC residences in Lesotho last month that killed 42 people, officials from the ANC and SWAPO offices in Lusaka have taken extraordinary safety precautions, moving frequently from house to house at night.

SWAPO was represented at the meeting by the head of the U.N. institute for Namibia, Hage Geingob, as SWAPO President Sam Nujoma could not get a flight from Luanda to Lusaka, Mr Tambo said.

Earlier today, Mr Zhao and members of his 60-strong delegation held two rounds of bilateral talks with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and his ministers.

ZIMBABWE

BEIRA-MUTARE OIL PIPELINE 'SABOTAGED' 5 JAN

MB061045 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] There has been another sabotage attack on Zimbabwe's vital fuel pipeline from Beira. The attack comes at a time the country is experiencing its fuel crisis. (Trevor Martin) reports from Harare:

Zimbabwe's 300-km oil pipeline from the port of Beira to the city of Mutare was damaged last night when an explosion blew a large hole in the pipe near (Mafuriga). No further details were available, but it's understood that this section of the line is one guarded by men of the Zimbabwe Army on special duty in Mozambique.

News of the attack will be devastating for Zimbabwe's motorists, who are already queuing for up to 3 and 4 days for any small amount of petrol as the country faces its worst ever fuel crisis. The severe shortage of (light) fuel worsened on December the 9th, when a fuel storage tank installation at Beira was badly damaged by fire. Repairs have been making good progress, and it has been forecasted that the pipeline might have resumed pumping again within a week.

FARM LEADER PROPOSES MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE

ABO61306 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] Harare, Jan 6 (AFP) -- The chairman of Zimbabwe's 5,000-member commercial farmers union returned to Harare today after meeting with farmers and defense and security officials in the wake of violence in the last few days in the country's troubled Matabeleland region.

Farmers' leader Jim Sinclair held lengthy discussions in the southwestern city of Bulawayo with Security Minister Emmerson Munangagwa and Defense Minister Sidney Sekeramayi.

He asked for additional protection for farmers by the security forces in the face of recent renewed violence by armed anti-government elements and proposed several measures. Mr Sinclair said Matabeleland farmers would begin implementing some of the measures immediately, but he declined to specify the measures.

Farmers are known to want to return to the efficient radio communications system that kept their isolated homesteads in touch with each other and the security forces during Zimbabwe's war for black majority rule, which allowed a quick response to guerrilla attack. Many of the Army and police who would now be called on to help make such a system work were guerrillas during the bush war.

Mr Sekeramayi, himself an exiled nationalist during that war, said that the Army would be taking measures to protect all Zimbabweans and not just farmers. Most of those killed and wounded by gunfire in the attacks that began on Christmas Eve have been black. "We are determined to put an end to this senseless destruction of public and private property and the killing of innocent people," he said.

The commander of an Army brigade based outside Matabeleland has been conferring with Mr Sekeramayi and Mr Munangagwa in Bulawayo, tending to confirm reports that reinforcements are being sent into the area.

A government spokesman said yesterday that three suspected "dissidents" had been arrested in connection with the murder in the region of a couple, Ian Michael and his wife, on December 21 of last year. The couple were shot dead during a payroll robbery at the Antrum Mine in Mberengwa, about 150 kms (90 miles) east of Bulawayo, and the suspects are believed to have been involved in robberies in other districts, too. The suspects were also helping security forces in the investigation of four other murders, the spokesman said.